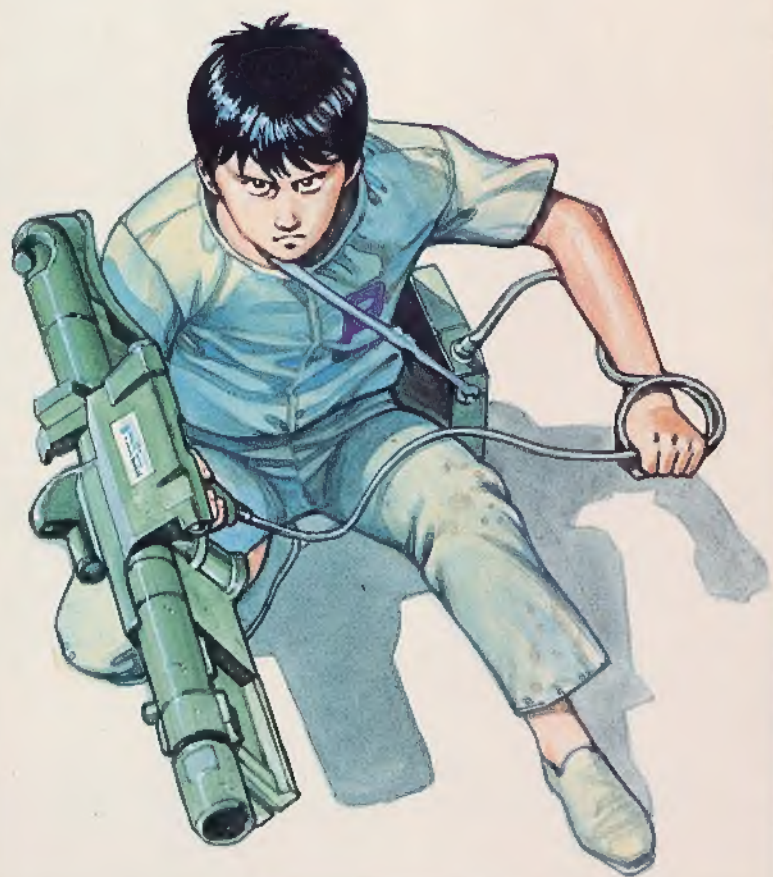


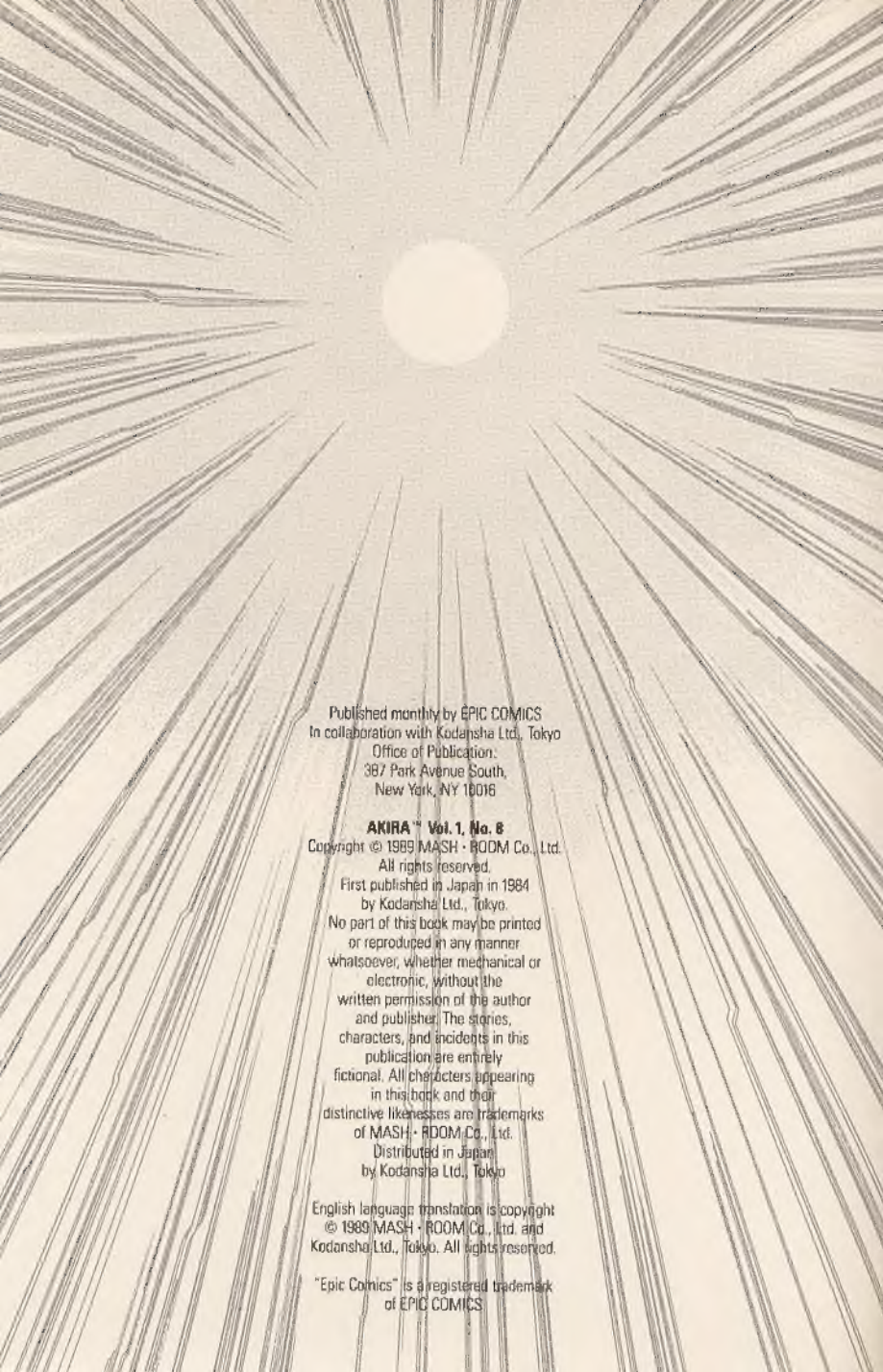
# AKIRA 8™



**KATSUHIRO OTOMO**



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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 8

## WEAPON OF VENGEANCE

## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



**T**he year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

**Kaneda** and his friends, teenage delinquents, make an unauthorized motorcycle run into the old city to check out the old site. They encounter a terrified child, known only as **Number 26**, possessing extraordinary

telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the paranormal boy gravely injures **Tetsuo**, one of **Kaneda's** close friends. Then, he vanishes.

The next night, at **Harukiya**, a tough local dive, **Kaneda** attempts, unsuccessfully, to pick up a newcomer, **Kay**. She and her companion, **Ryu**, are part of an underground resistance group dedicated to learning what is happening in the old city and putting a stop to it.

Trouble ensues, and both delinquents and resistance fighters again encounter **Number 26**. Then the ominous **Colonel** in charge of the covert operation appears with a secret weapon—**Number 27**, a crippled paranormal child named **Masaru**. **Masaru** astonishes the resistance fighters by addressing **Number 26** as **Takashi**. **Kay** and **Ryu** had previously assumed that **Number 26** was the **Colonel's** ultimate weapon—the as-yet unseen paranormal giant code-named **Akira**. **Kaneda** is separated from the resistance fighters, but he manages to intercept and hide a pill meant for **Takashi**, who is recaptured by the **Colonel's** men.

**Tetsuo**—who following his accident was taken to a hospital by soldiers serving the **Colonel**—is taken from school by the **Colonel** after his recovery. Under the treatments of the **Colonel's** chief medical officer, **Tetsuo** exhibits powerful telekinetic abilities...and undergoes great pain. Finally, **Tetsuo** breaks out of the **Colonel's** installation, using his burgeoning powers to slaughter

all who oppose him.

Meanwhile, **Kaneda**, trying to learn what is happening to **Tetsuo**, re-encounters the members of the resistance, and is brought back to their headquarters. Questioned by **Ryu**, he denies all knowledge of the stolen drug. When soldiers enter the resistance hideout in force, **Kaneda** and **Kay** manage together to escape to **Harukiya**, where the bartender agrees to shelter them. A spy from the Colonel's organization learns of their hideout, but he is caught and left for dead by a resistance fighter.

**Kiyoko**, another of the psychic children under the Colonel's control, announces that **Akira**—who is asleep, and expected to remain so for some time—is going to awaken in the near future.

At **Harukiya**, **Yamagata** and **Kaneda**'s other friends tell of **Tetsuo**'s new powers and of his bloodthirstiness. **Kaneda** and **Yamagata** lead the local street gangs on an all-out attack to stop **Tetsuo**. Then the **Colonel**, alerted by his informant, arrives at **Harukiya**, and forces the bartender to tell him where the fugitives have gone.

**Yamagata** and his team corner **Tetsuo** in a warehouse. Most of the gang dies, and **Kaneda** reaches the scene in time to see **Tetsuo** brutally kill **Yamagata**. Enraged, **Kaneda** shoots **Tetsuo**...who survives.

As the **Colonel** arrives, **Tetsuo** grabs and swallows the drug **Kaneda** had hidden, apparently dying of an overdose. A few minutes later, the terrible delinquent recovers, more

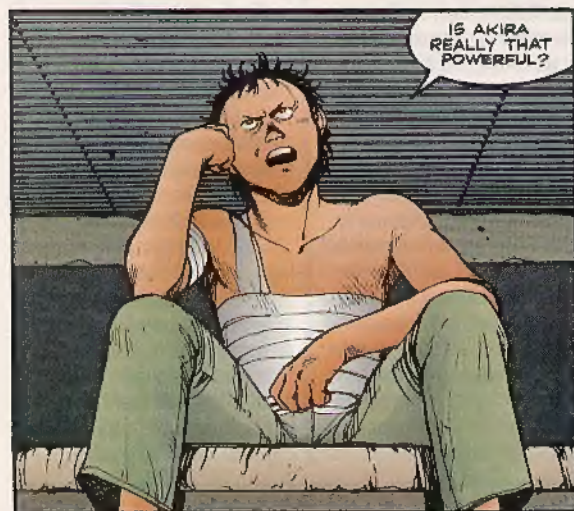
powerful than ever, and the elated **Colonel** rechristens him **Number 41**.

Back at the Colonel's installation, **Tetsuo**'s body shrugs off the effects of his wounds... and his mind continues its descent into madness and evil. Eavesdropping on the **Colonel** and his doctor, he is intrigued to learn that he is not unique, and that other paranormals possess talents he lacks.

**Ryu**, working undercover at a construction site next to the Colonel's base, meets with **Nezu**, who publically leads the governmental opposition party but secretly is a resistance leader as well, and the pair share new evidence on the scale of the **Akira** project. **Nezu**, in turn, consults **Lady Miyako**, the head of a powerful religious cult of which **Nezu** is a member. **Lady Miyako**, who bears the **Number 19** on her hand marking her as one of the Colonel's series, warns of impending catastrophe which may be linked to **Akira**.

**Kiyoko**, **Takashi**, and **Masaru** fear **Tetsuo**'s power and discuss plans to hinder him. Then **Kay**—who, like **Kaneda**—has been brought to the installation under guard, escapes, displaying a variety of psychic powers, including telekinesis and teleportation. She attacks **Tetsuo**, almost killing him, and helps **Kaneda** to shake off his guards, acting like a sleepwalker the whole time. As guards close in on the escapees, **Tetsuo** quizzes the doctor about **Akira**, and learns that his chief rival is trapped in cryogenic sleep.





IS AKIRA  
REALLY THAT  
POWERFUL?



I... HAVE NO  
FIRSTHAND  
KNOWLEDGE  
OF HIM.

MY INFORMATION  
IS FROM THE  
FILES OF THE  
SCIENTISTS WHO  
DEVELOPED  
HIM...



...OVER  
THIRTY  
YEARS  
AGO.



YOU MEAN...  
AKIRA'S  
BEEN  
SLEEPING  
SINCE  
BEFORE  
WORLD WAR  
THREE?



IN A MANNER  
OF SPEAKING,  
YES.



WHAT ABOUT  
OTHERS...  
BESIDES  
AKIRA AND  
ME?

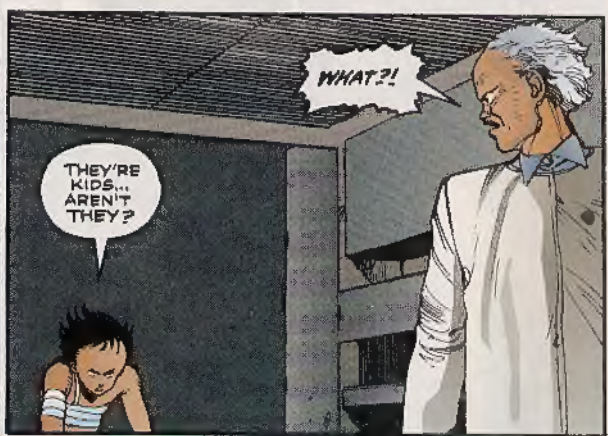
Hhhmmmm



THERE  
ARE A FEW.



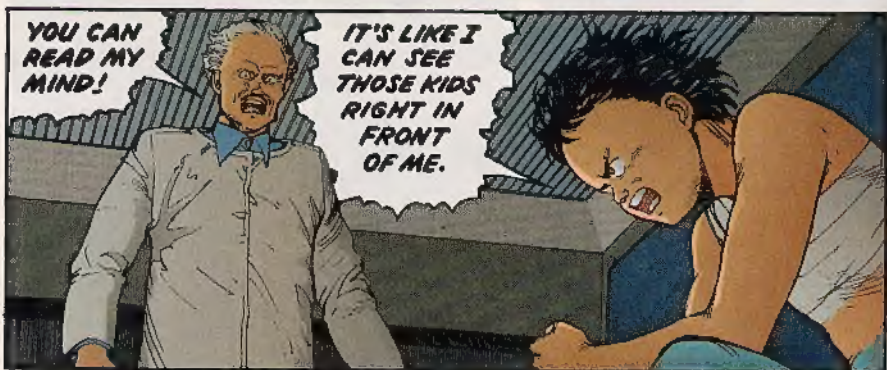
YOU'LL BE  
MEETING  
THEM  
SOON.



WHAT?!

THEY'RE  
KIDS...  
AREN'T  
THEY?









THIS IS THE  
ARMORY!



HOW'D I  
GET IN  
HERE?



WUHHH...



...KAY?

Yoo-Hoo!  
KA-AAY!

UH...

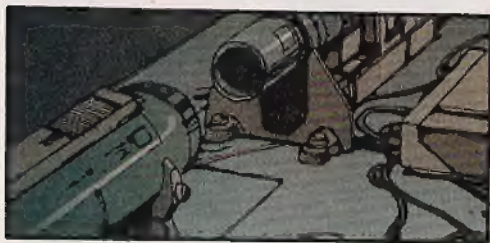
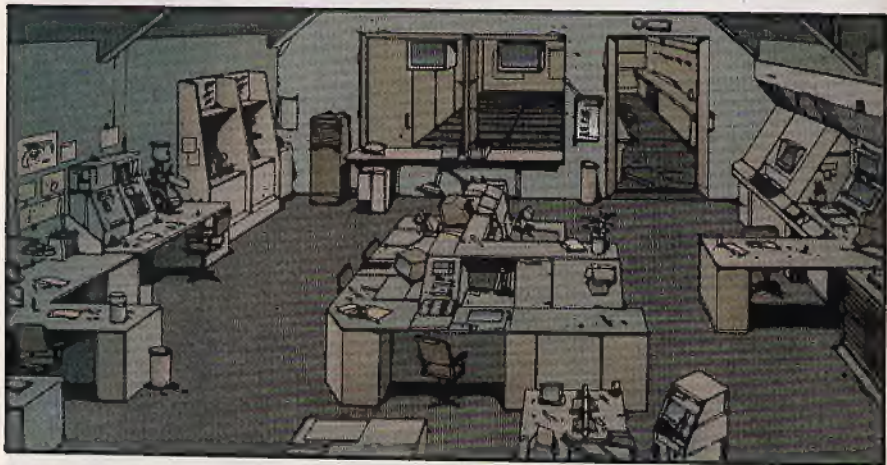


KA-A-AAY!!!

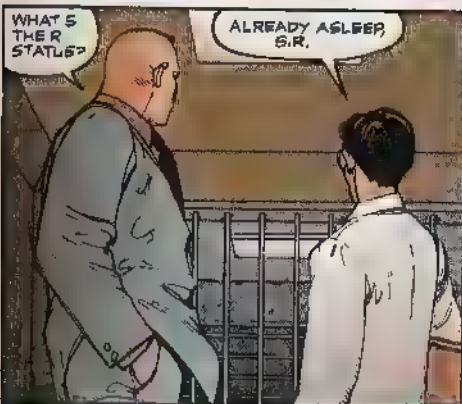
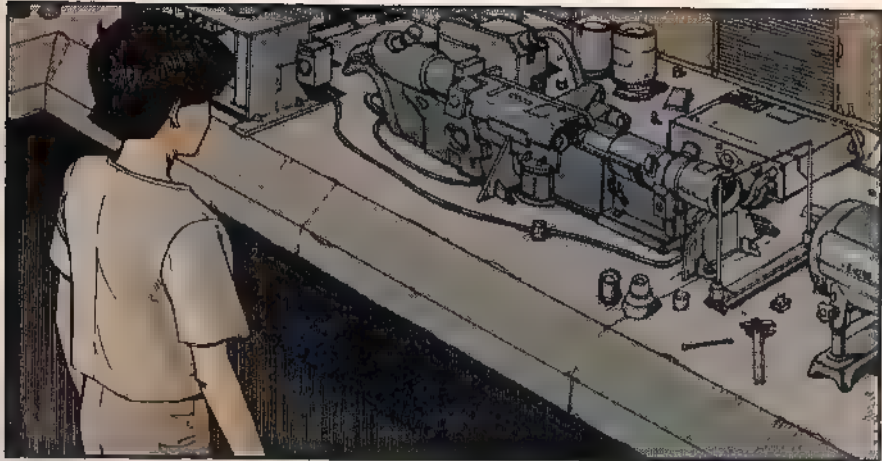


DEVELOPMENTAL  
RESEARCH

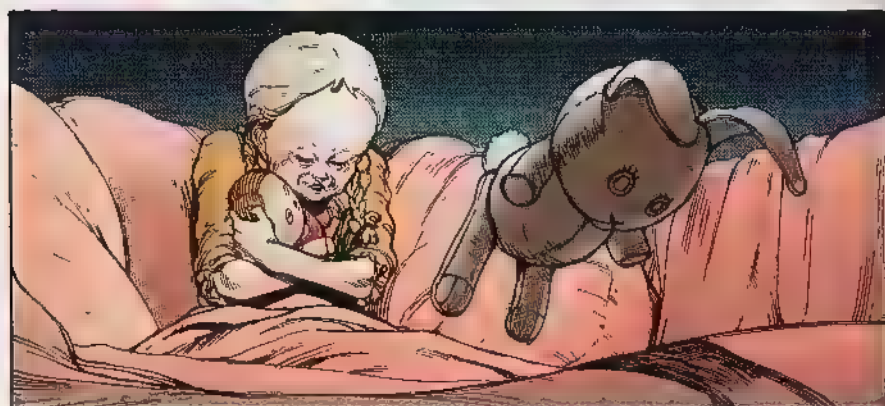
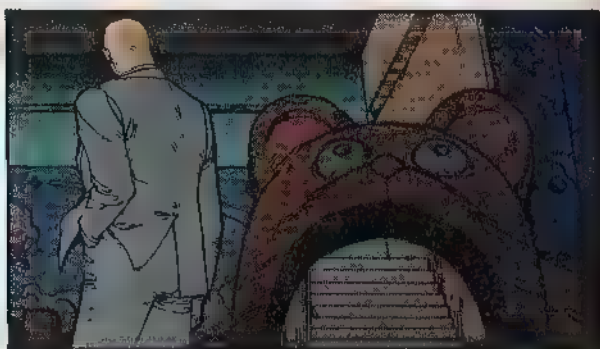
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PERSONNEL ONLY

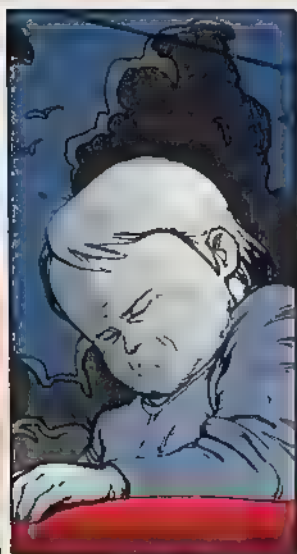


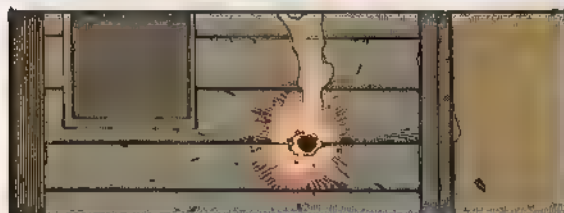
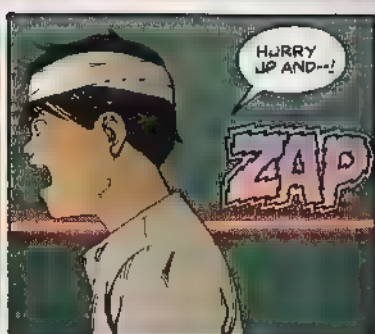
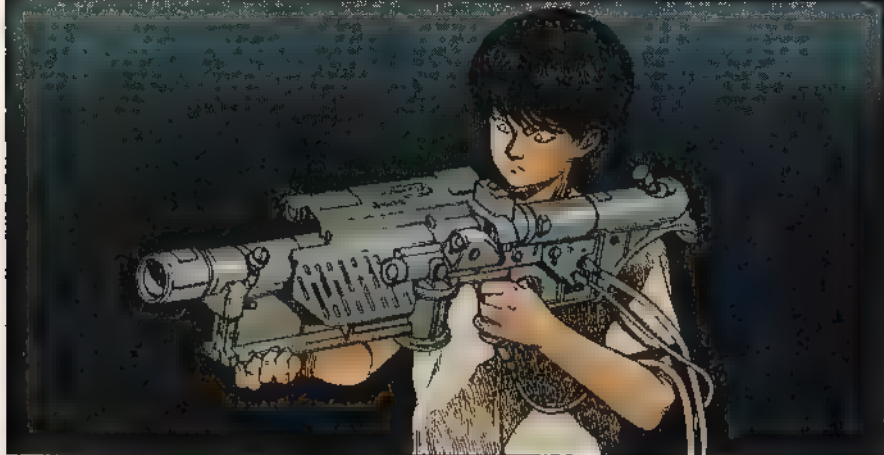




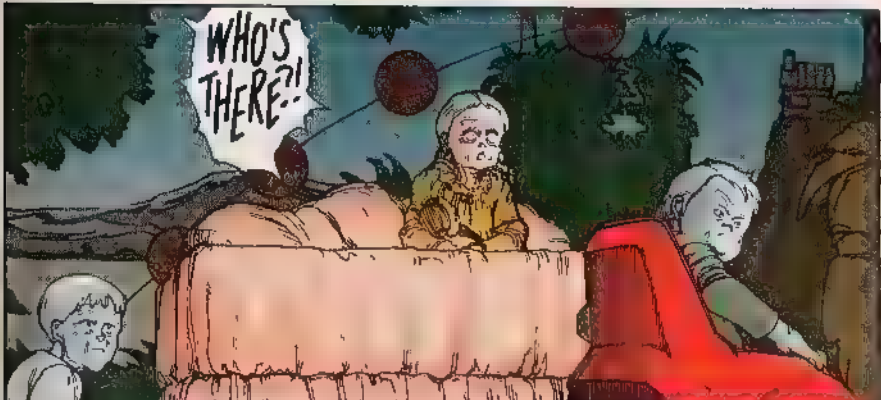
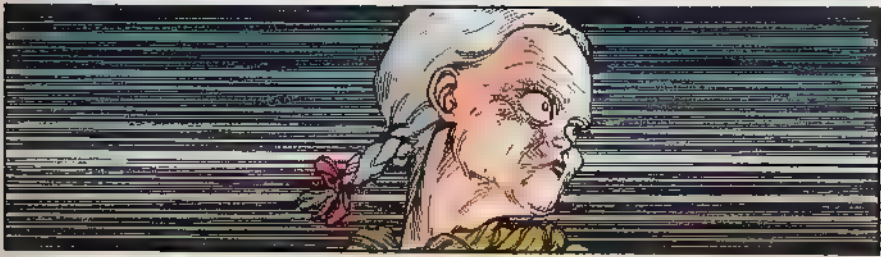
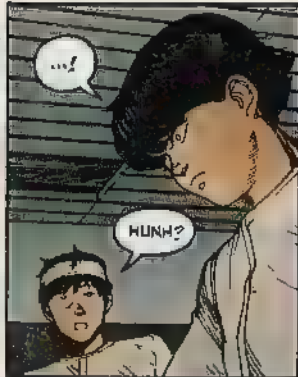
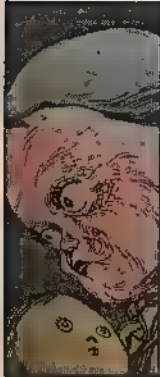












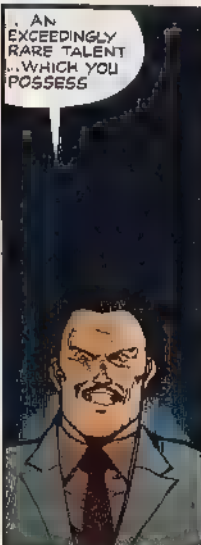
**WHAT IS THE  
MEANING OF  
THIS?!**



I SHOULD  
HAVE  
REAL ZED  
THE MOMENT  
I SAW  
THE TAPES. .

THAT  
GIRL USED  
TELEPOR-  
TATION...

AN  
EXCEEDINGLY  
RARE TALENT  
...WHICH YOU  
POSSESS



**WHAT  
DO YOU  
HOPE  
TO  
ACCOMPLISH  
USING  
HER?!**



KILL

"KILL"...?!

YESS...

KILL...  
TETSUO.

TE-TETSUO?!

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
KILL  
HIM?

HUNH?!

IS THAT  
WHAT THE  
GUN'S  
FOR?

WHAT'S THIS  
ALL ABOUT,  
ANYWAY?!

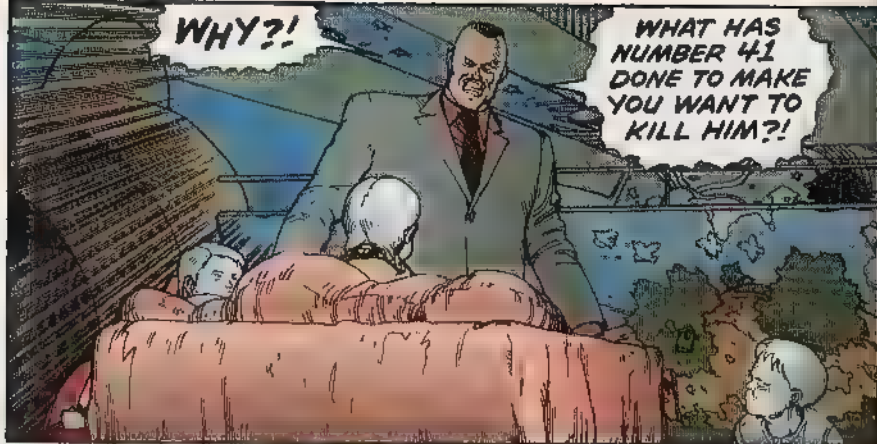
IS HE  
HERE?

IS TETSUO  
IN THIS  
BUILDING?!

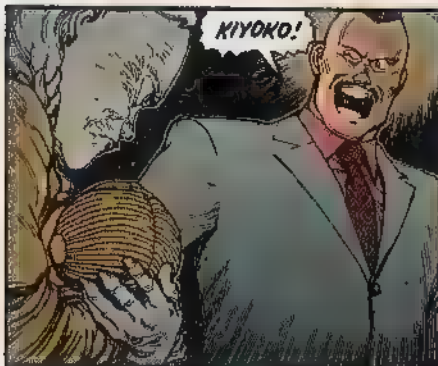


WHY?!

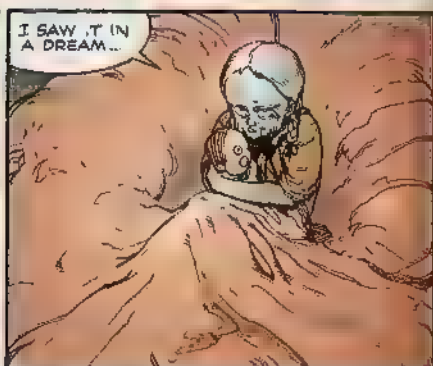
WHAT HAS  
NUMBER 41  
DONE TO MAKE  
YOU WANT TO  
KILL HIM?!



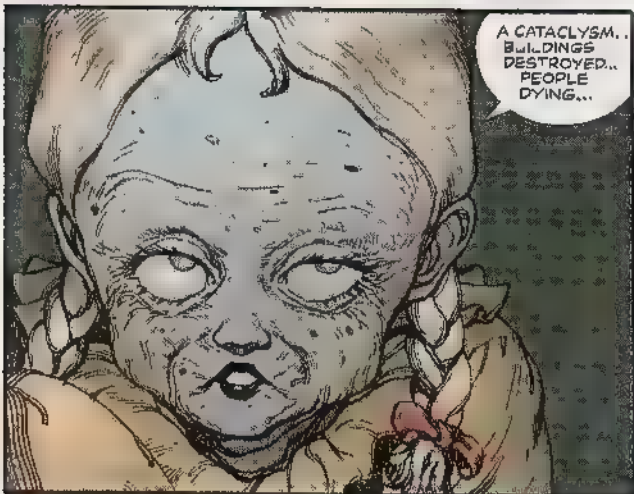
KIYOKO!



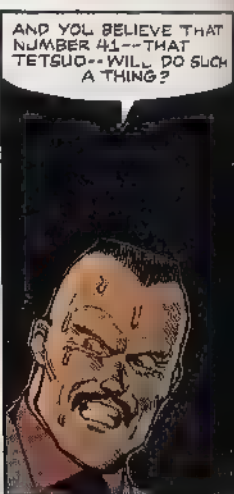
I SAW IT IN  
A DREAM...



A CATACLYSM...  
BUILDINGS DESTROYED...  
PEOPLE DYING...



AND YOU BELIEVE THAT  
NUMBER 41--THAT  
TETSUO--WILL DO SUCH  
A THING?



NO...BUT AKIRA  
WILL.

**AKIRA!**

WHY WOULD  
AKIRA  
DESTROY ANYTHING?  
AND WHAT  
HAS  
NUMBER  
41  
TO DO  
WITH  
IT?

THAT'S WHY  
WE HAVE TO  
KILL  
TETSUO.

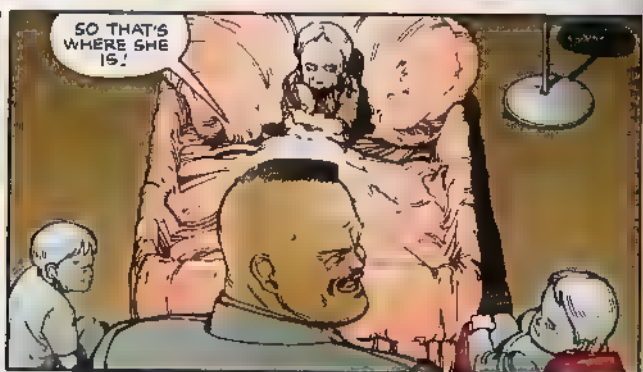
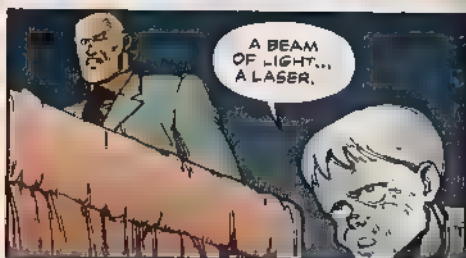
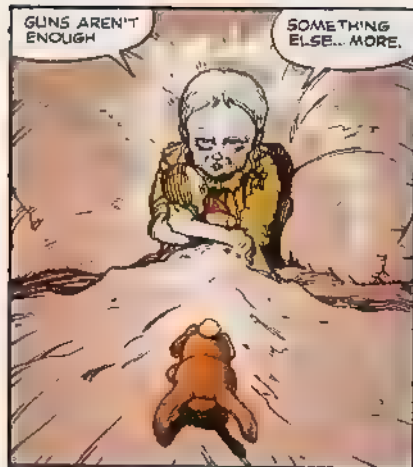
I'M ALL  
IN FAVOR OF  
IT!  
WHERE  
IS  
HE?!

THAT'S WHY  
WE HAVE TO  
KILL  
TETSUO.

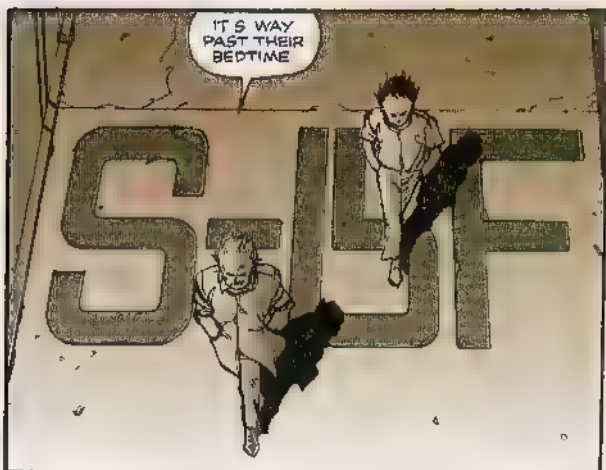
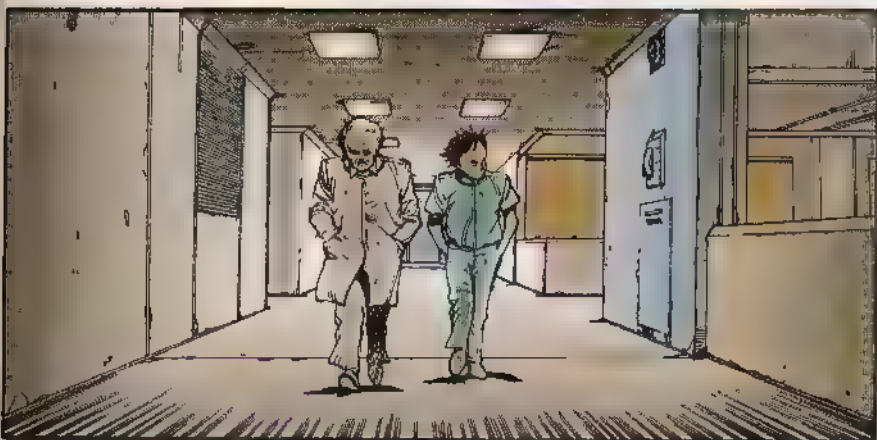
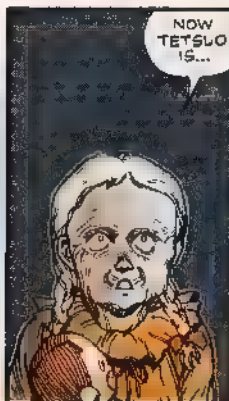
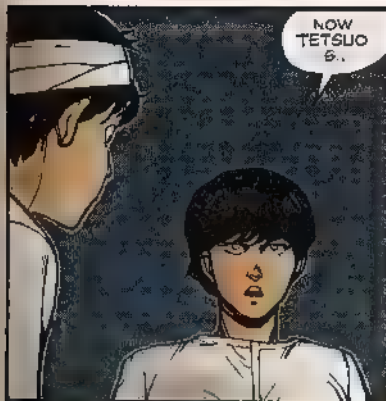
YOU  
USED  
THAT  
GIRL!!  
WHERE  
IS  
SHE  
NOW?!

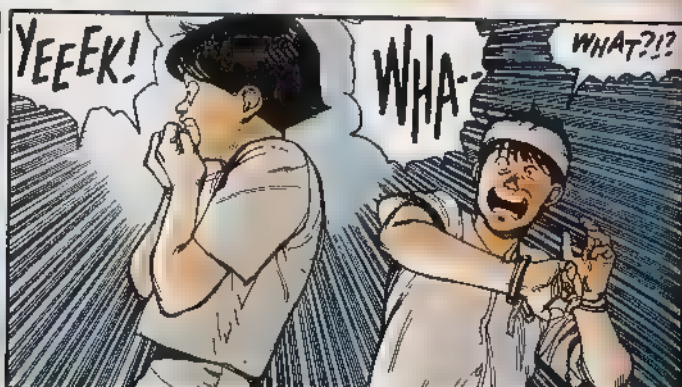
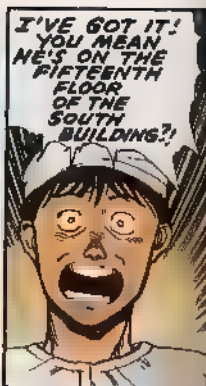
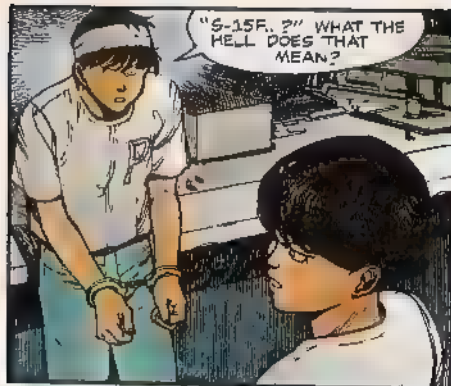
HOWEVER...

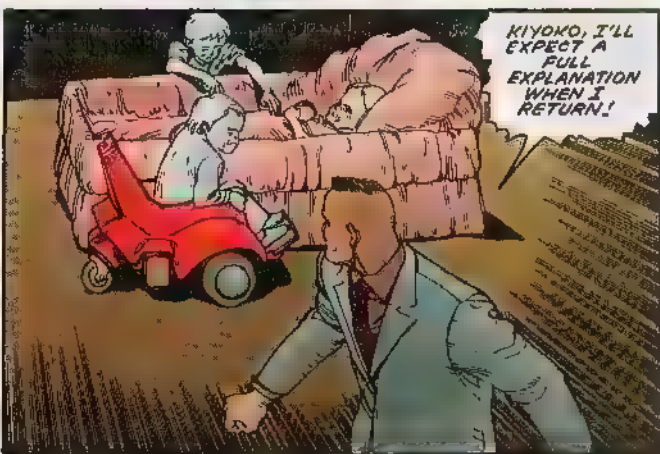
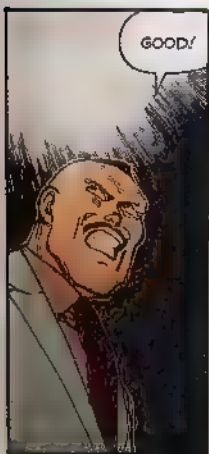
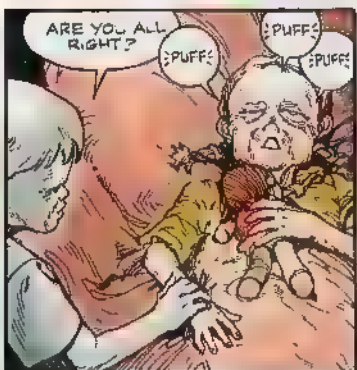
..T'S MORE  
THAN WE CAN  
ACCOMPLISH  
ALONE, THAT'S  
WHY..



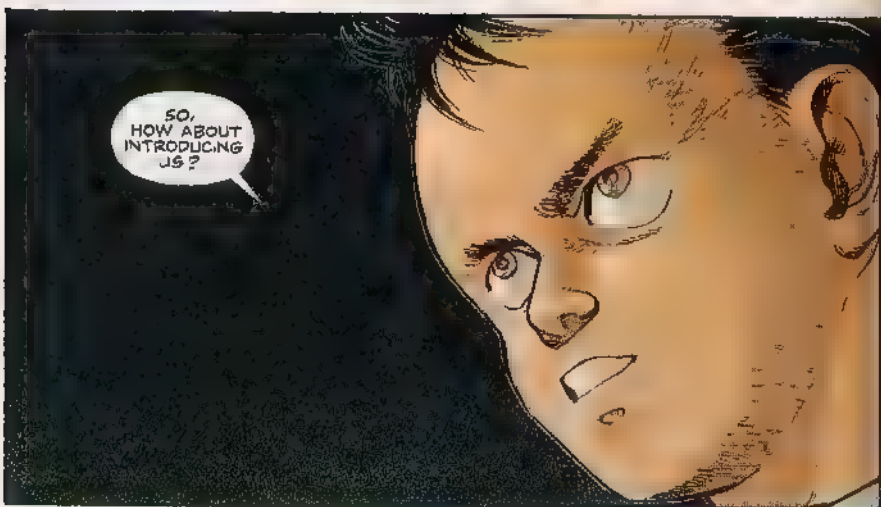
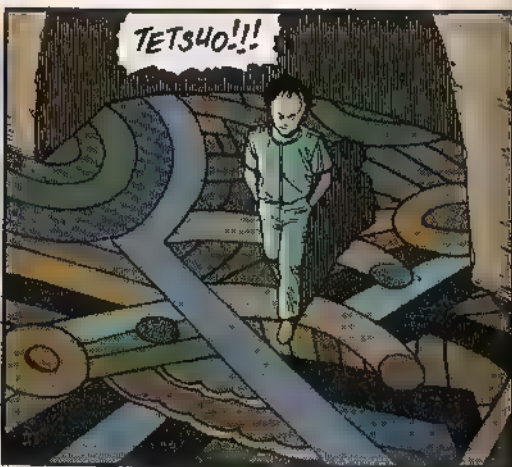




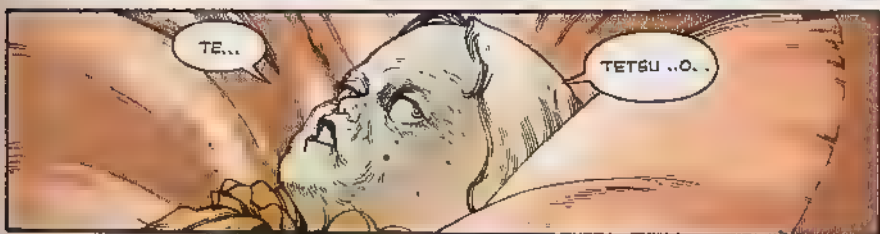
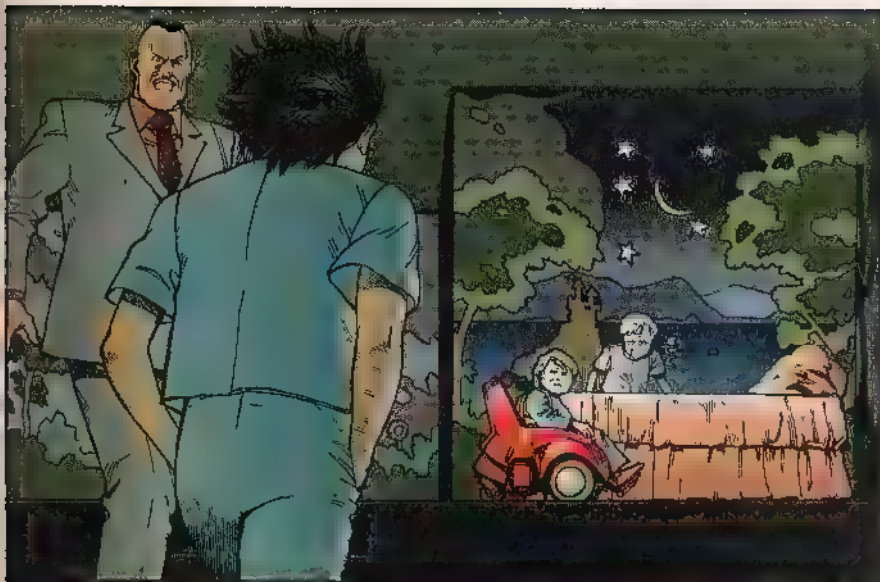


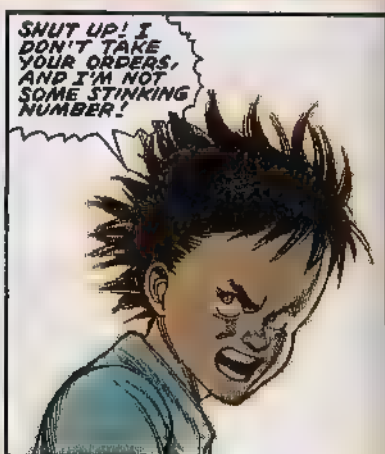
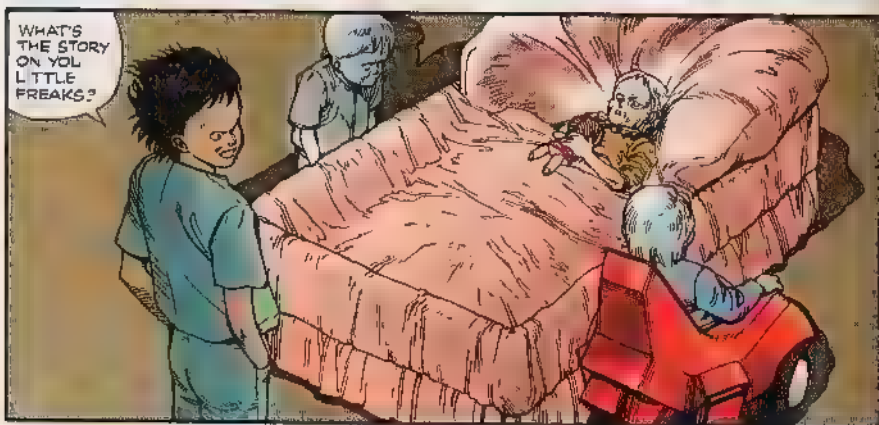


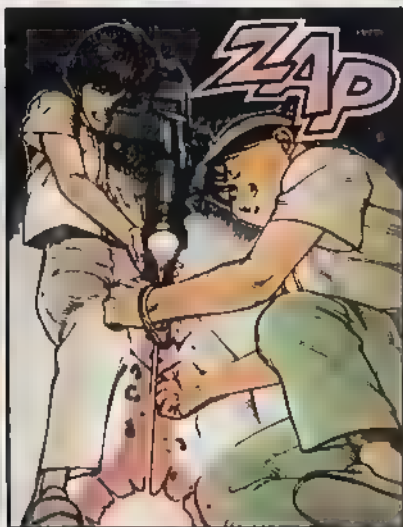
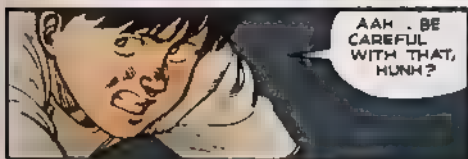




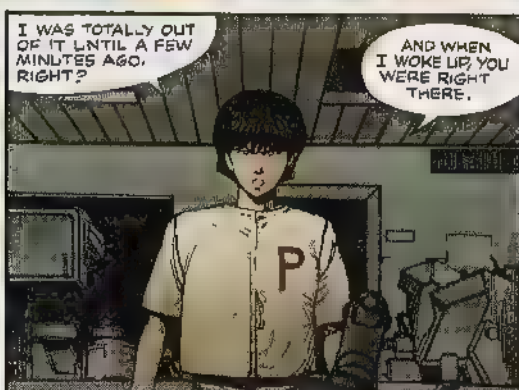
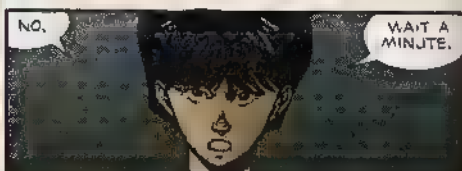


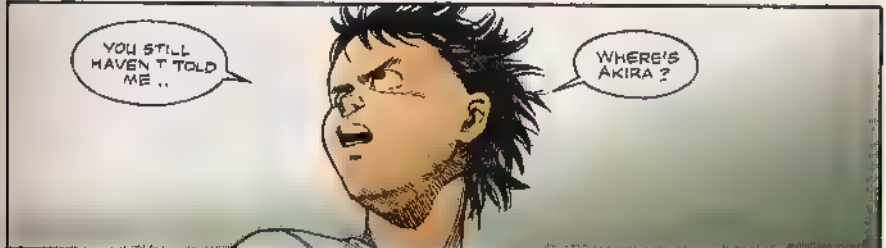












YOU STILL  
HAVEN'T TOLD  
ME ..

WHERE'S  
AKIRA ?



WHA--

WHAT  
DO YOU  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
AKIRA ?!?



DOCTOR--?!



I  
DIDN'T  
TELL  
HIM,  
SIR!



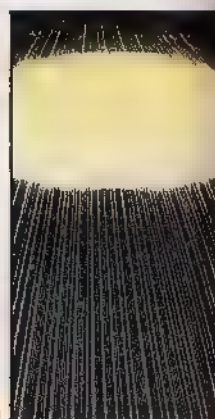
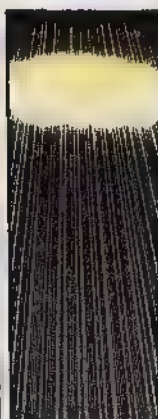
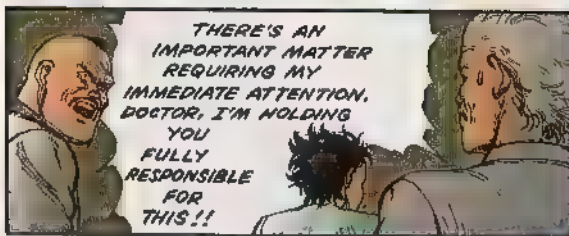
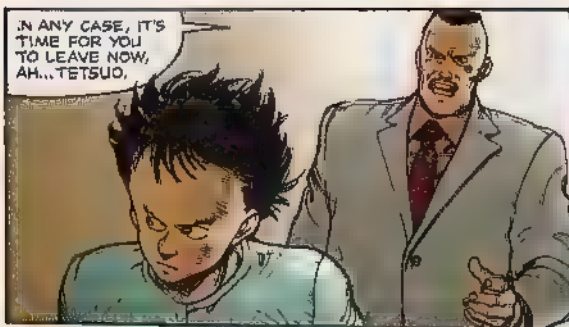
WHERE'S  
HE  
SACKED  
OUT?



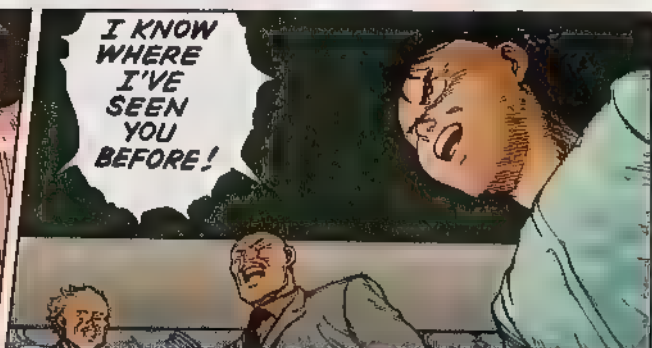
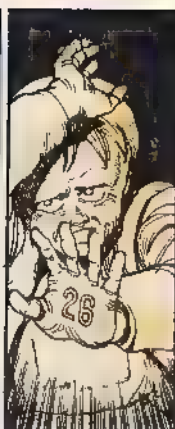
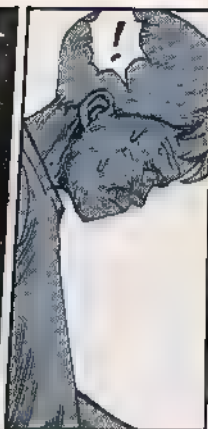
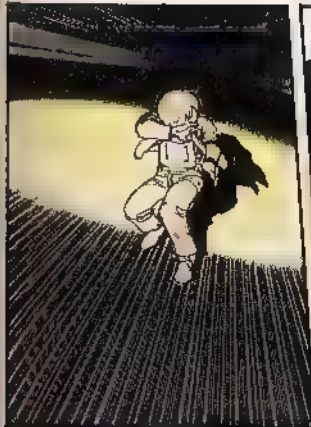
NOT  
HERE.



HMM?







YOU  
GOTTA  
BE  
KIDDING!

E-B-M



WHAT'S  
WRONG?



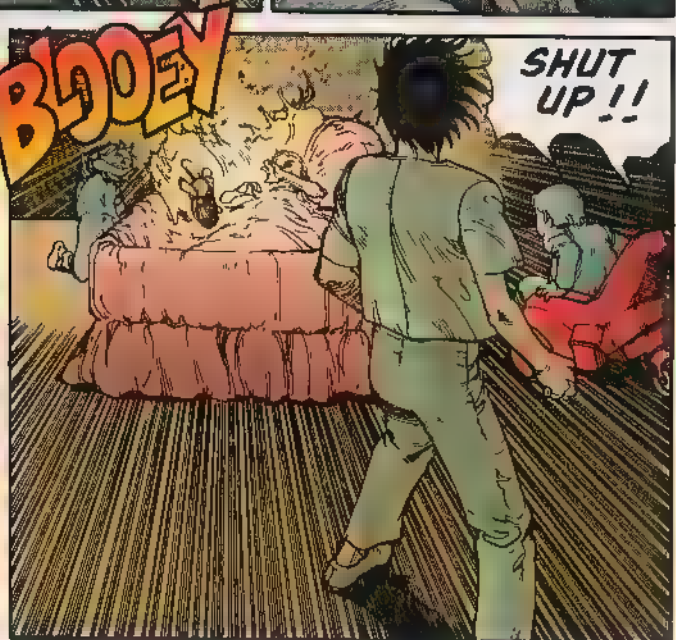
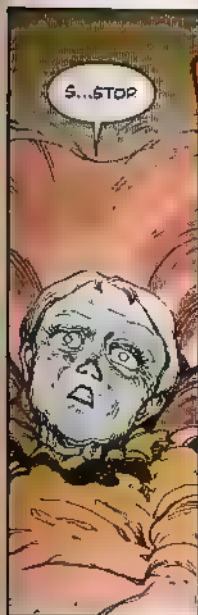
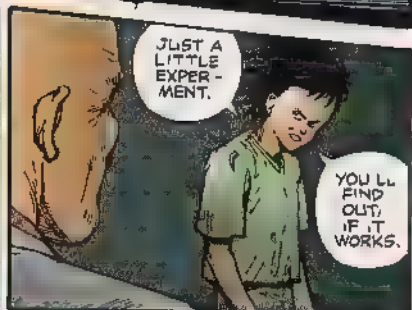
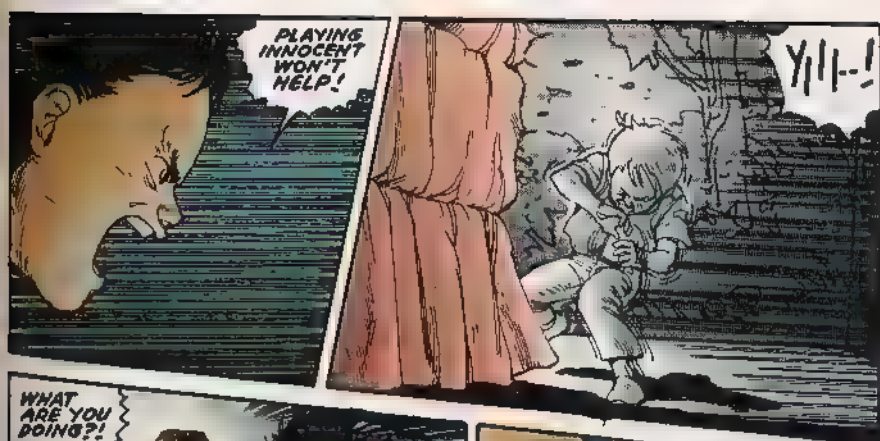
YOU FILTHY  
PIG!



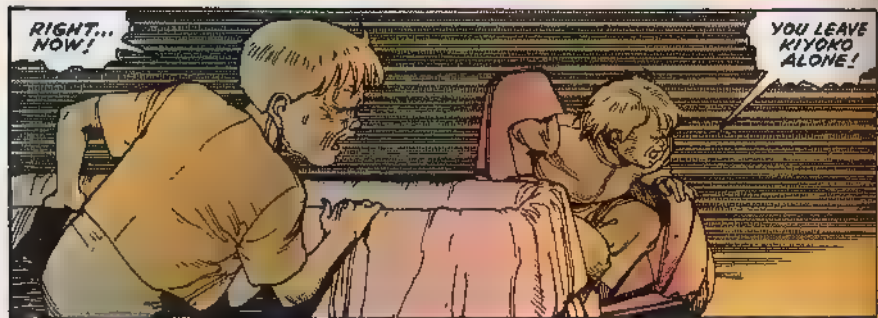
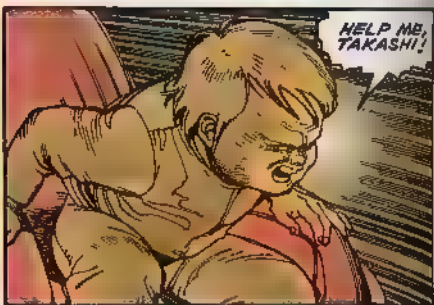
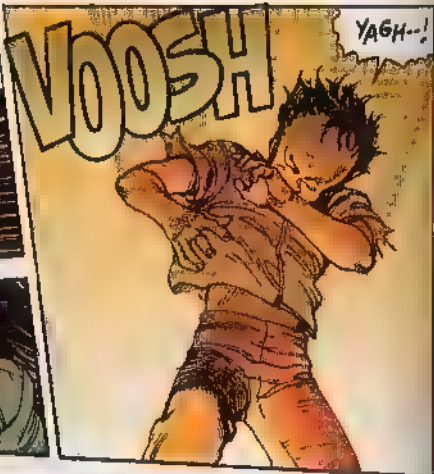
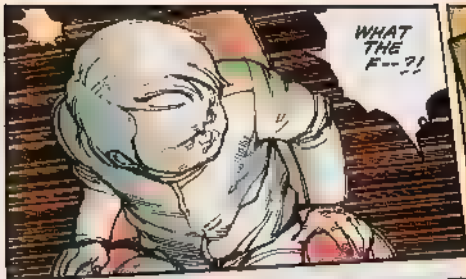
JUST  
WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

I DON'T  
TALK TO  
PERVERTS!









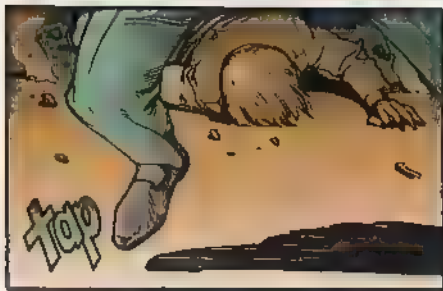
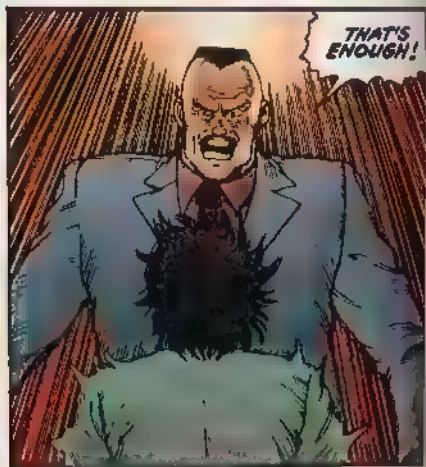
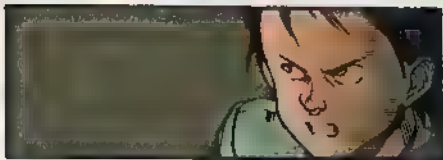
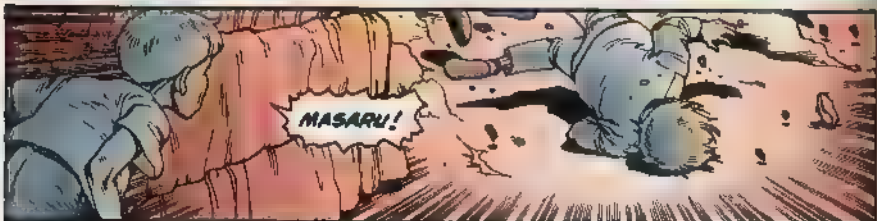
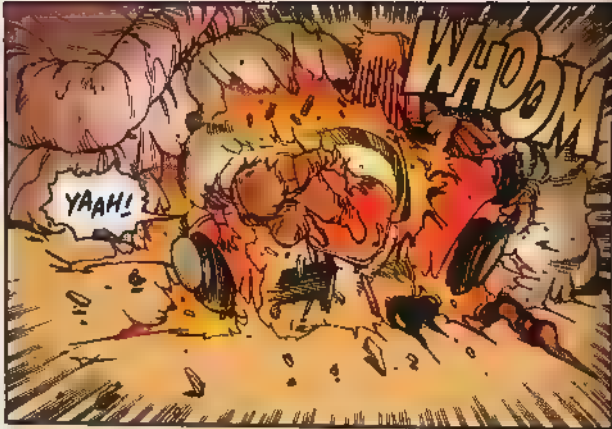
**KRAK**

**MASARU!  
TAKASHI!  
STOP THIS  
AT ONCE!**

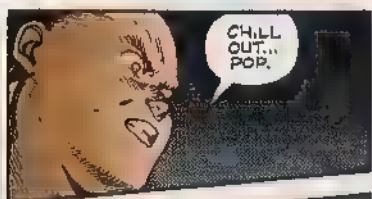
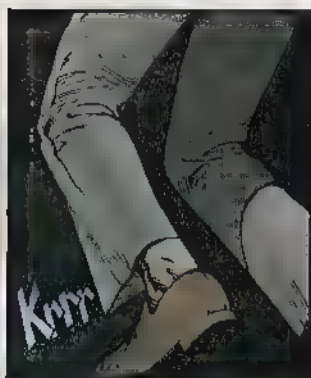
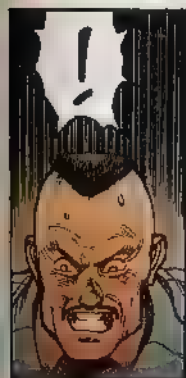
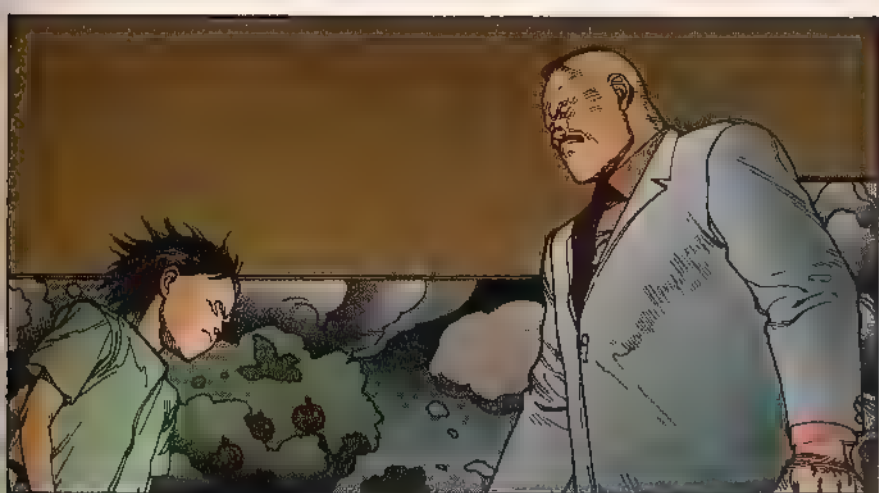
**THAT...  
THE BEST  
YOU CAN  
DO?**

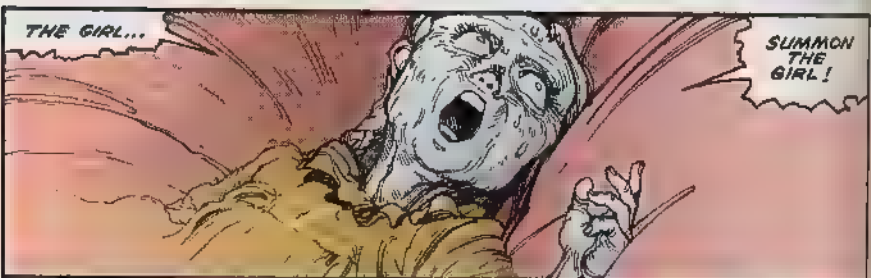
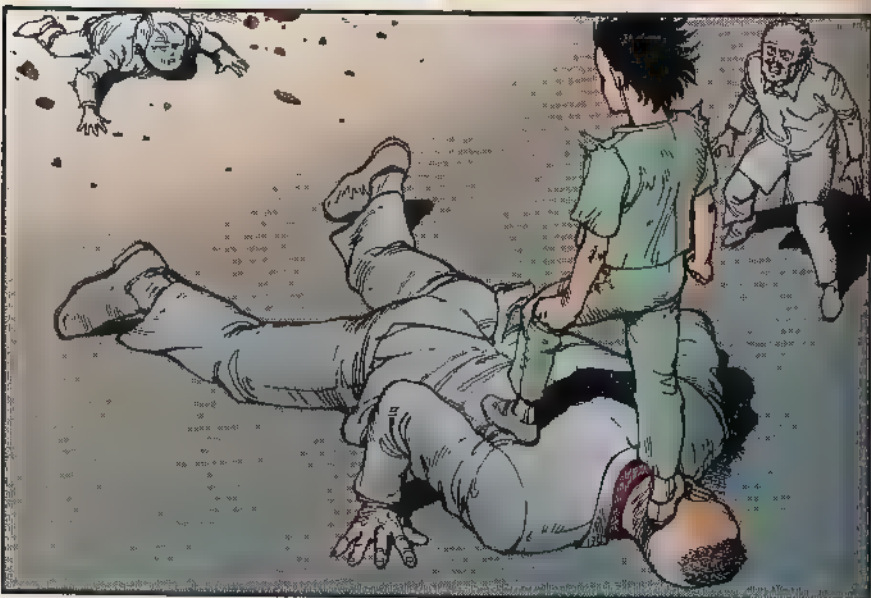
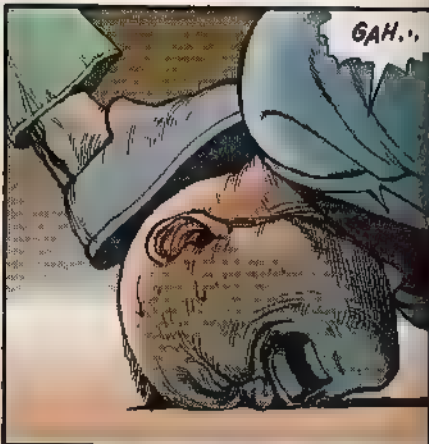
**!GASP!**

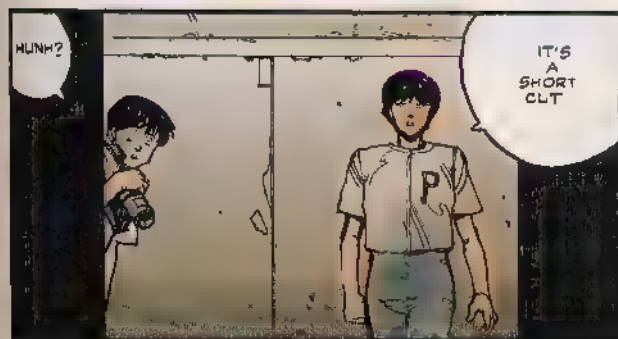
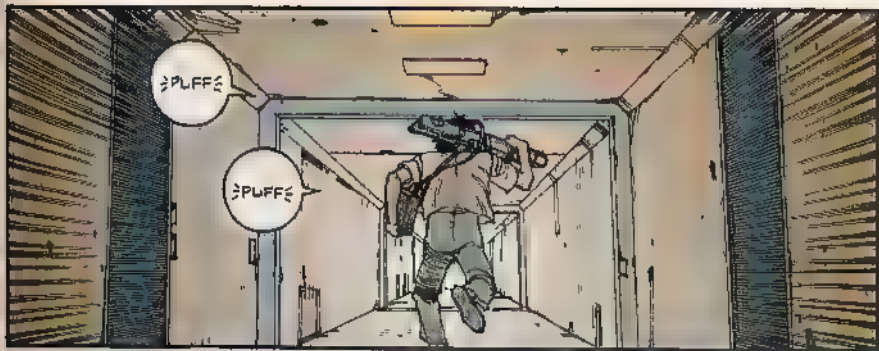
**YOU LITTLE  
BASTARDS!**



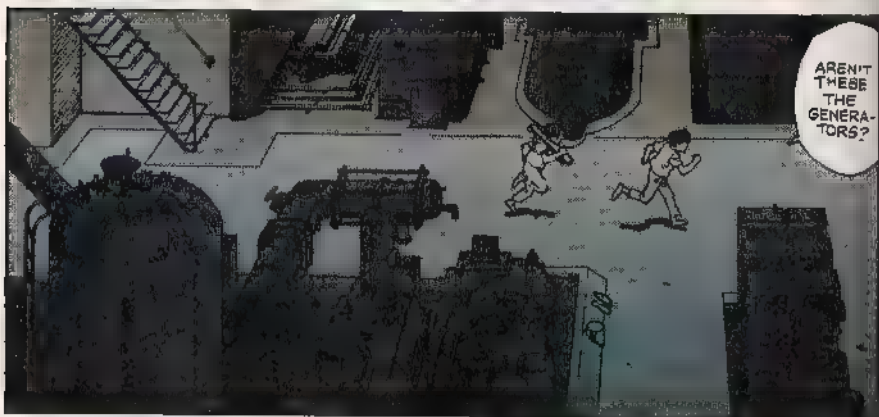
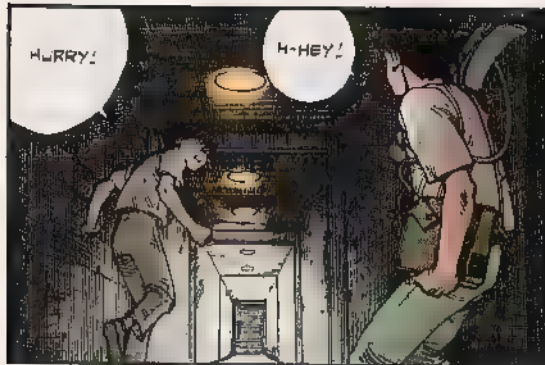


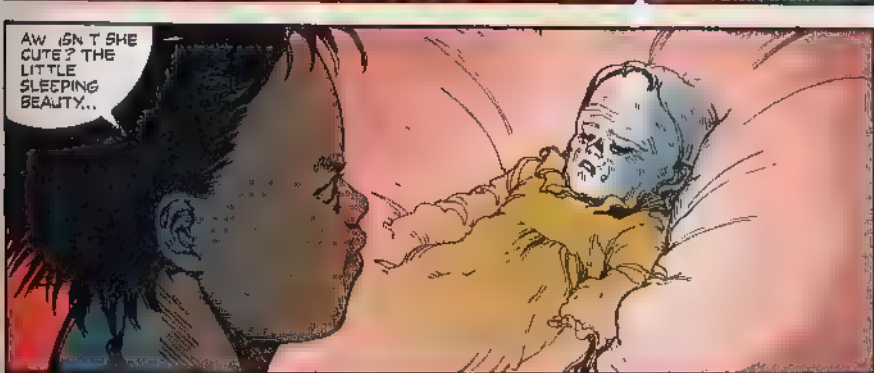
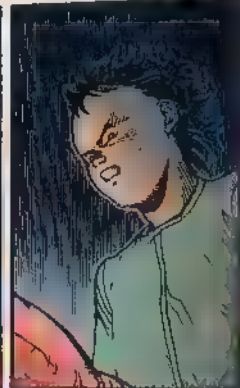
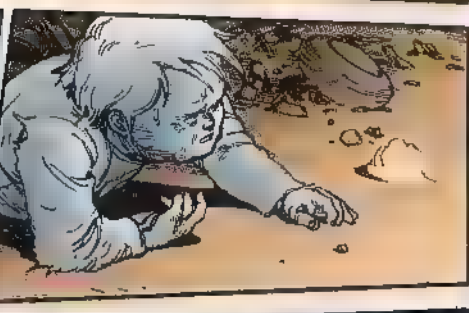
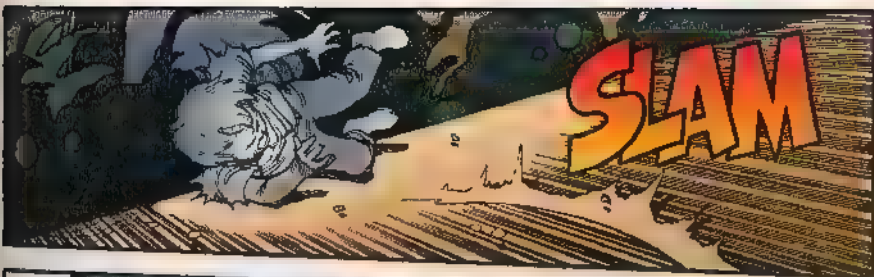


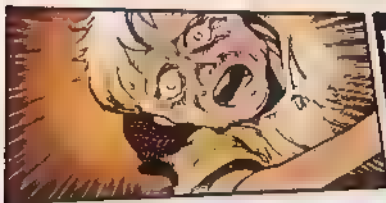




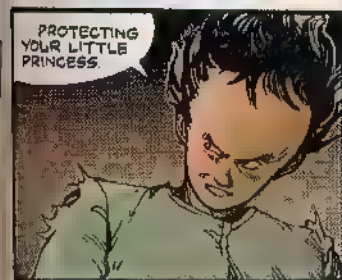
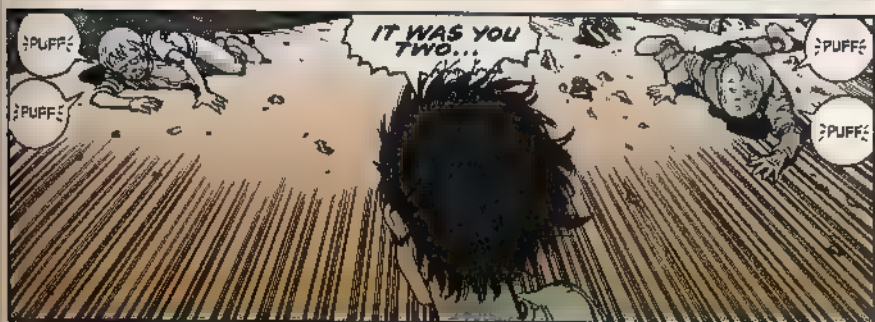
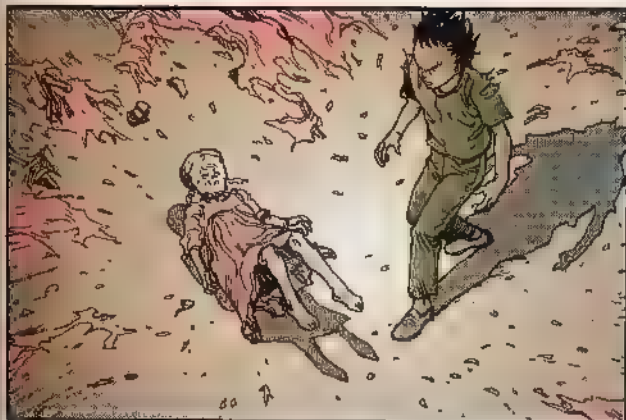


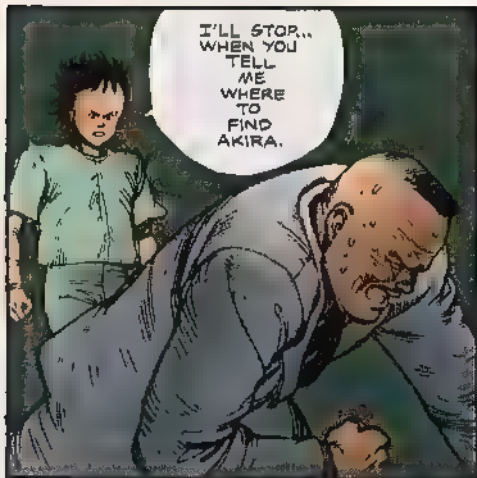








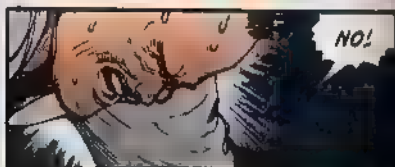




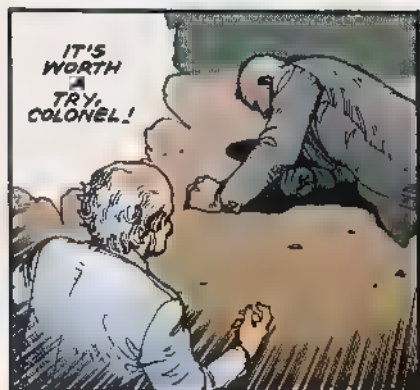
I'LL STOP...  
WHEN YOU  
TELL  
ME  
WHERE  
TO  
FIND  
AKIRA.



I  
SEE!  
VERY  
WELL...



NO!



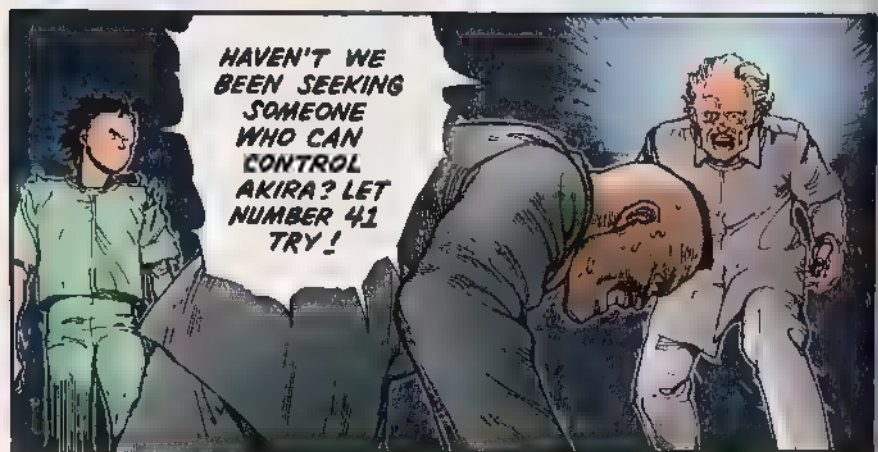
IT'S  
WORTH  
A  
TRY,  
COLONEL!



DO  
YOU  
REALIZE  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
SAYING?



YES!



HAVEN'T WE  
BEEN SEEKING  
SOMEONE  
WHO CAN  
CONTROL  
AKIRA? LET  
NUMBER 41  
TRY!

AKIRA HAS HELD UP  
THIS  
PROJECT  
FOR  
THIRTY  
YEARS!

OF  
COURSE,  
WE'D  
HAVE  
TO  
RUN  
TESTS  
FIRST...  
ESTAB-  
LISH  
CON-  
TROLS..

WE  
CAN'T  
THROW  
AWAY  
THIS  
CHANCE  
TO  
MASTER  
AKIRA!

PUFF:

GASP:

GASP:

THIS WAY!  
QUICKLY!

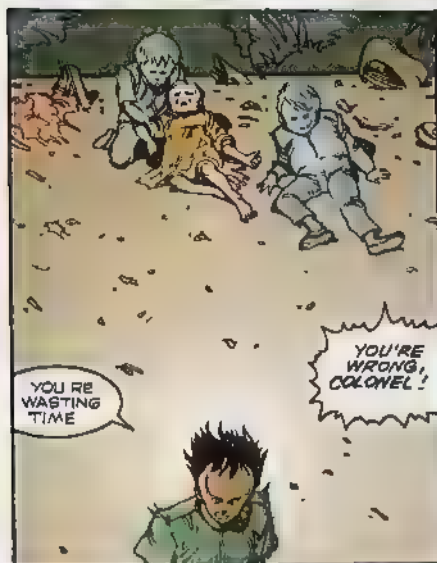
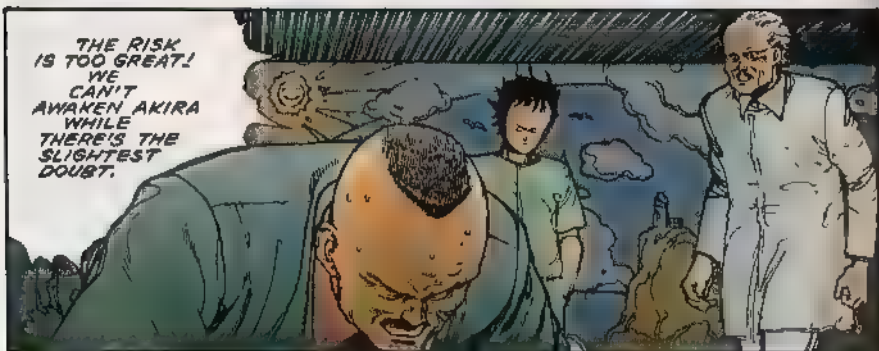
I DON'T KNOW  
HOW I KNOW.  
I JUST KNOW.

HOW DO YOU  
KNOW?





THE RISK  
IS TOO GREAT!  
WE  
CAN'T  
AWAKEN AKIRA  
WHILE  
THERE'S THE  
SLIGHTEST  
DOUBT.

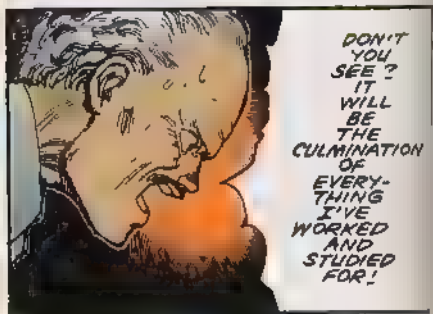


YOU'RE  
WASTING  
TIME

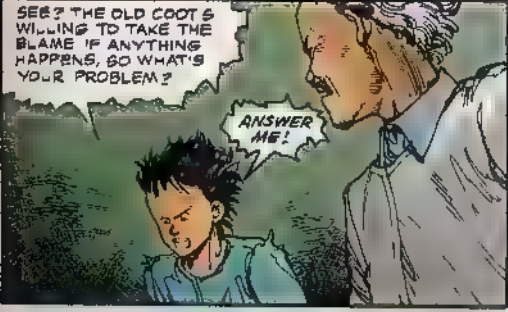
YOU'RE  
WRONG,  
COLONEL!



I'LL  
ASSUME  
FULL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR  
THE  
SAFETY  
FACTOR!




DON'T  
YOU  
SEE?  
IT  
WILL  
BE  
THE  
CULMINATION  
OF  
EVERY-  
THING  
I'VE  
WORKED  
AND  
STUDIED  
FOR!

A man with a mustache and a light blue shirt (Colonel) is talking to a young boy with spiky black hair and a blue shirt (Akira).


SEE? THE OLD COOT'S WILLING TO TAKE THE BLAME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SO WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

ANSWER ME!

Colonel is shown from the chest up, shouting with his mouth wide open. He is holding the back of Akira's head.

YOU CAN'T POSTPONE THIS THING FOREVER, COLONEL!

IT HAS TO HAPPEN SOMETIME!

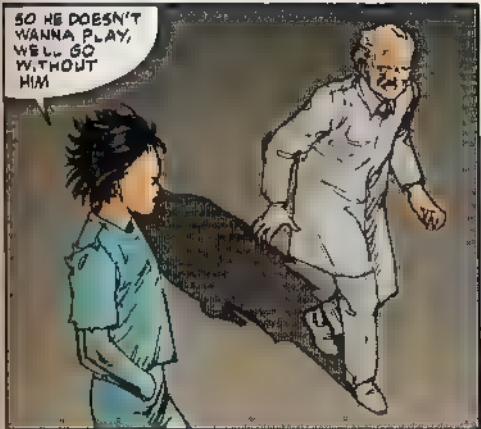
A close-up of Akira's face, looking up with a determined and slightly angry expression.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT AKIRA'S LIKE!

A large, close-up shot of Colonel's face, showing a stern and somewhat menacing expression.

BUT NOT YET! I CAN'T RISK MILLIONS OF LIVES--

-- JUST TO SATISFY YOUR "SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY" ... AND YOUR EGO!

Colonel is walking away from Akira, looking back over his shoulder. Akira is standing and watching him go.

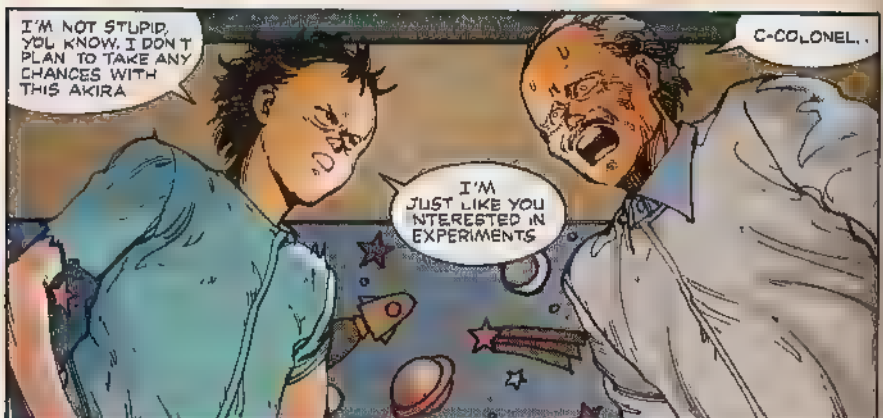
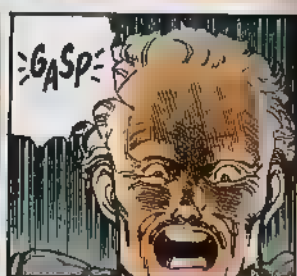
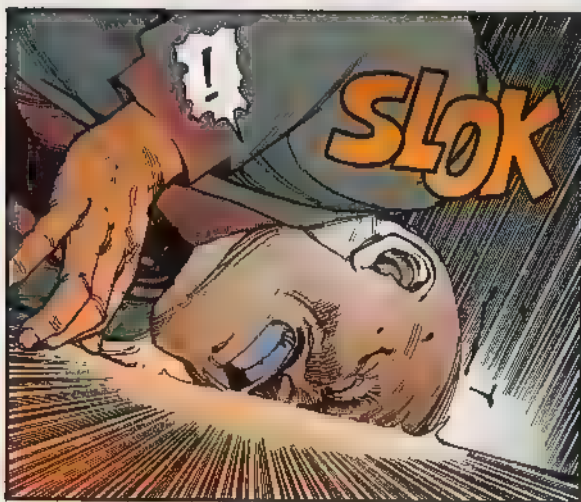
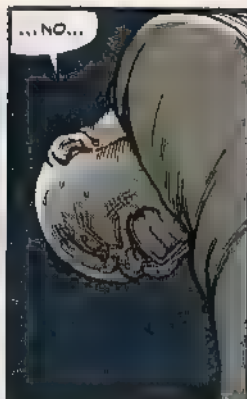
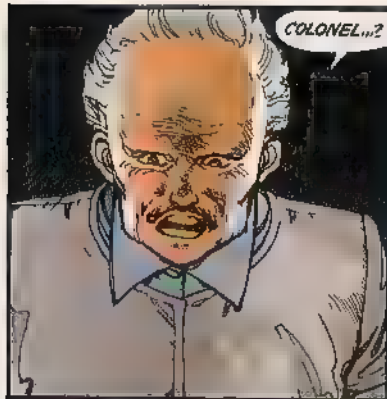
SO HE DOESN'T WANNA PLAY, WELL GO WITHOUT HIM

A close-up of Akira's face, looking thoughtful or perhaps a bit disappointed.

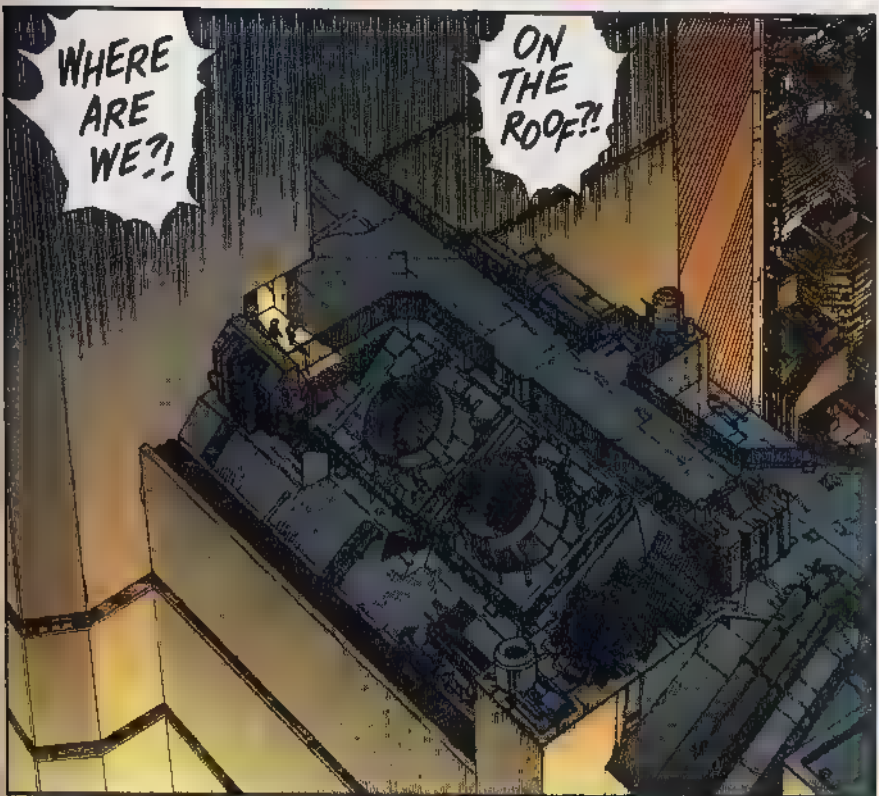
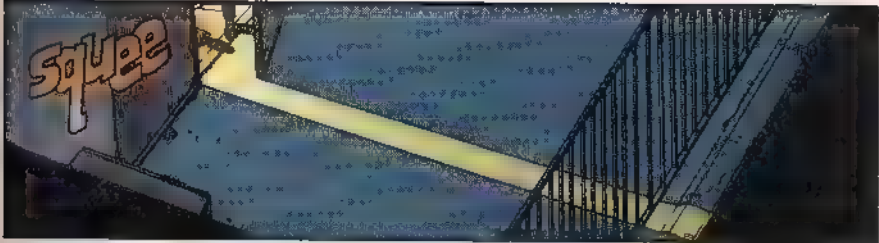
NOW...

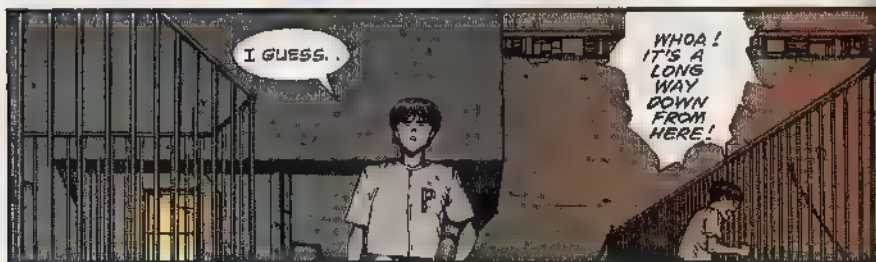
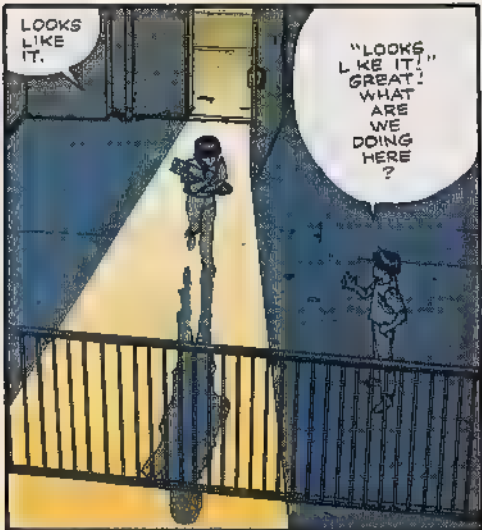
A close-up of Akira's face, looking very angry with his teeth bared.

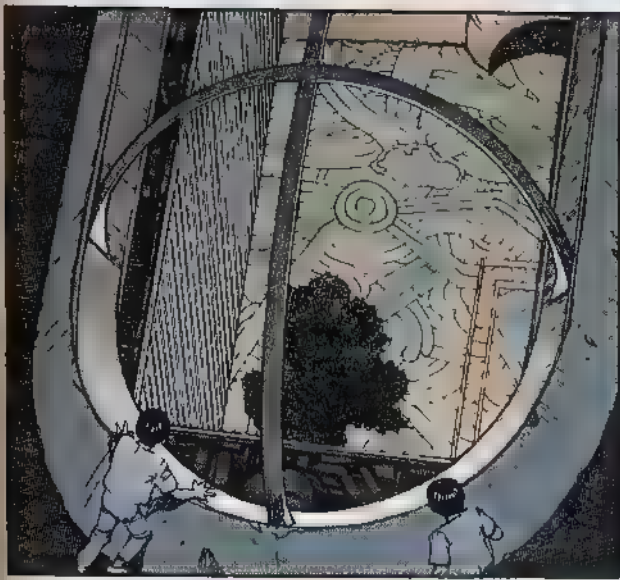
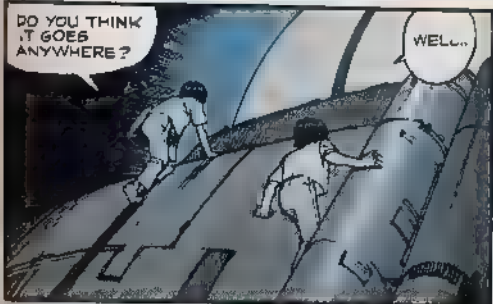
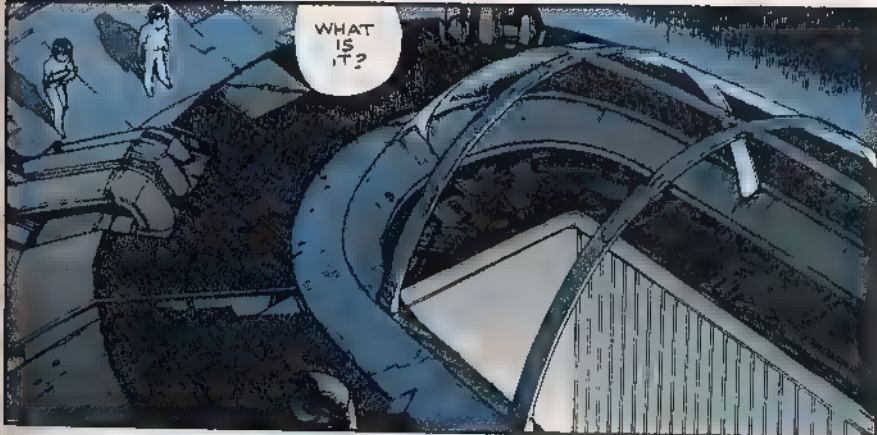
... JUST WHERE IS AKIRA?





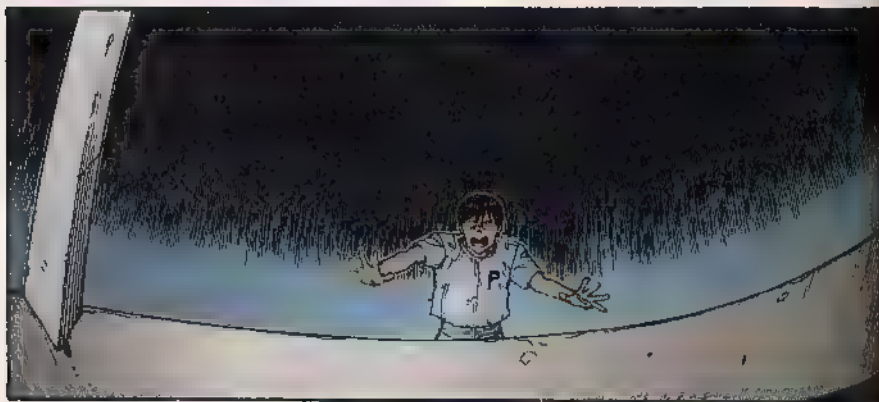






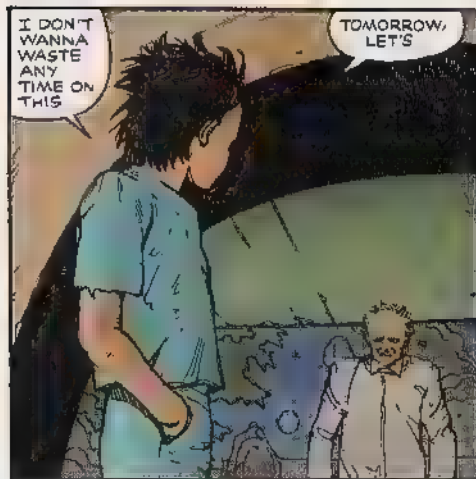


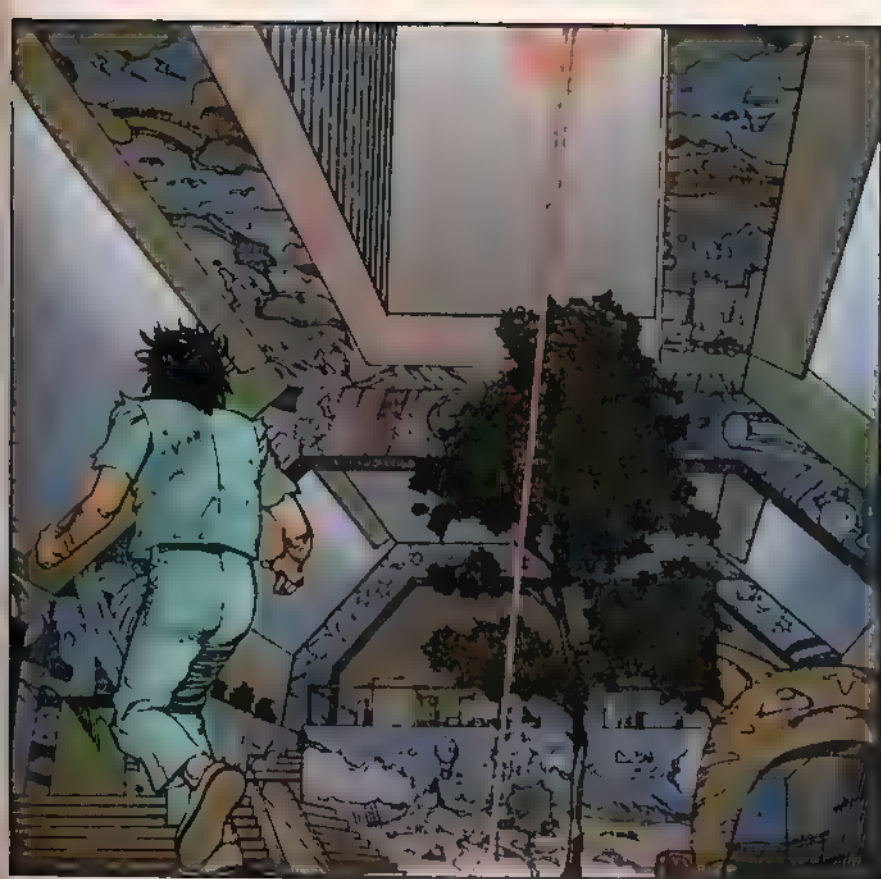
I  
GOT  
IT!  
HE'S  
UNDERNEATH  
THE  
NEW  
OLYMPIC  
SITE!

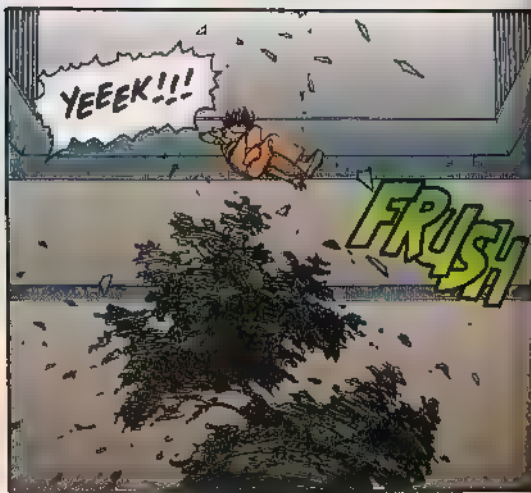


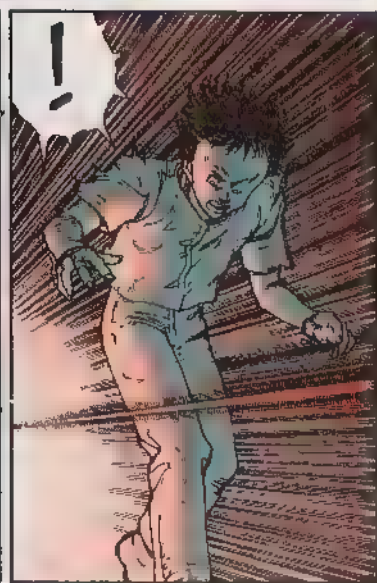
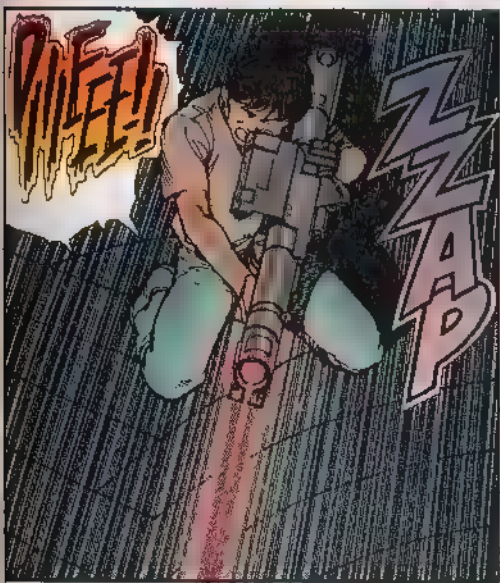
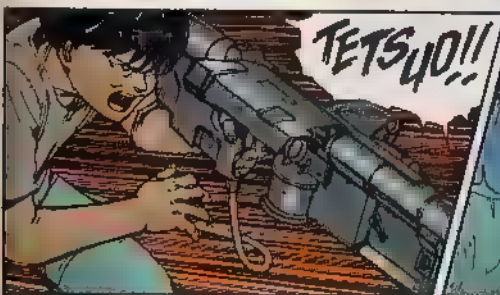
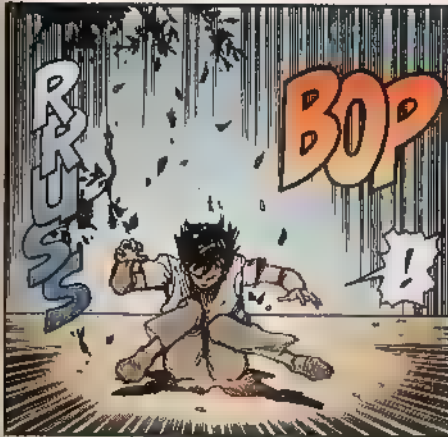
I DON'T  
WANNA  
WASTE  
ANY  
TIME ON  
THIS

TOMORROW,  
LET'S

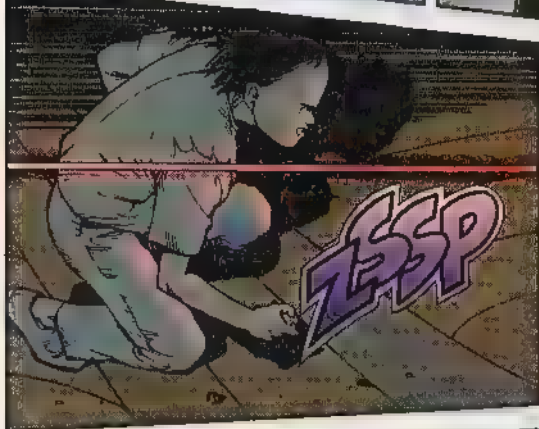


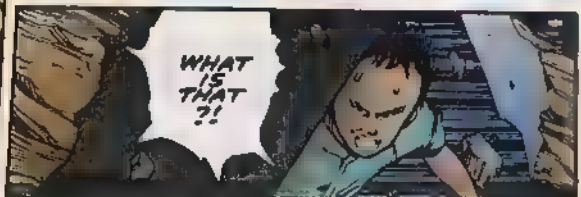
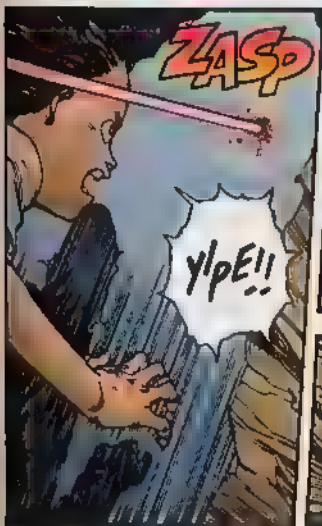
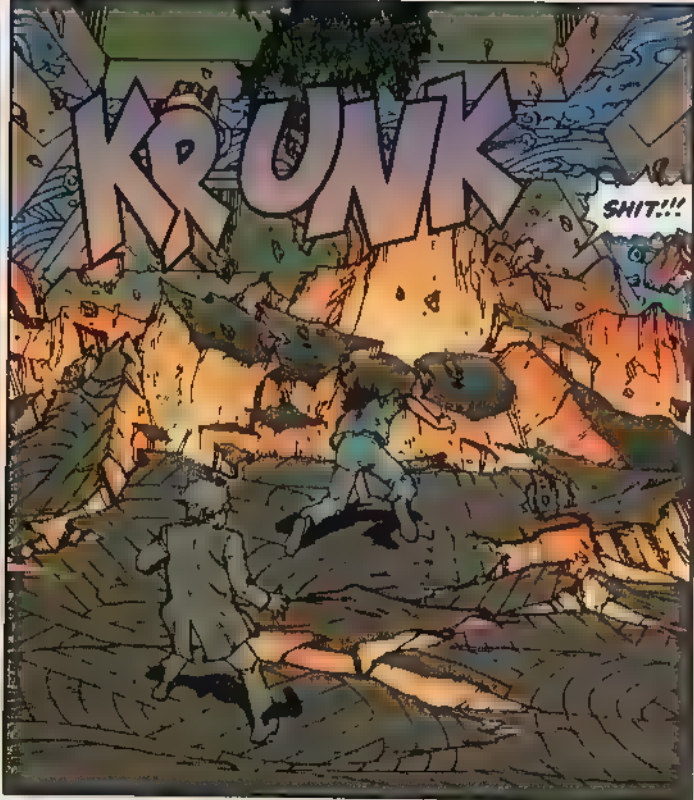


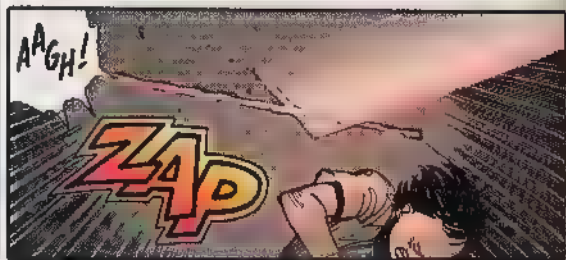
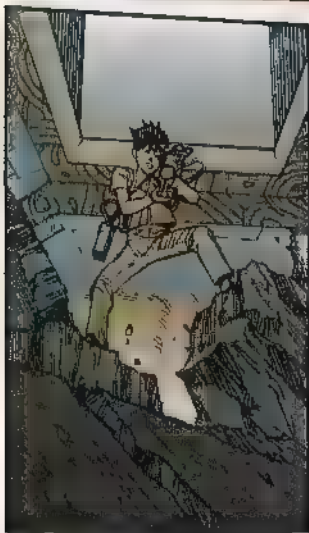
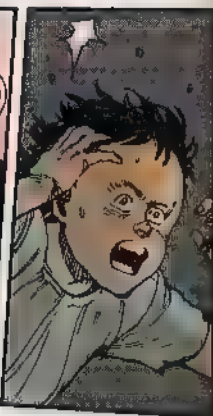
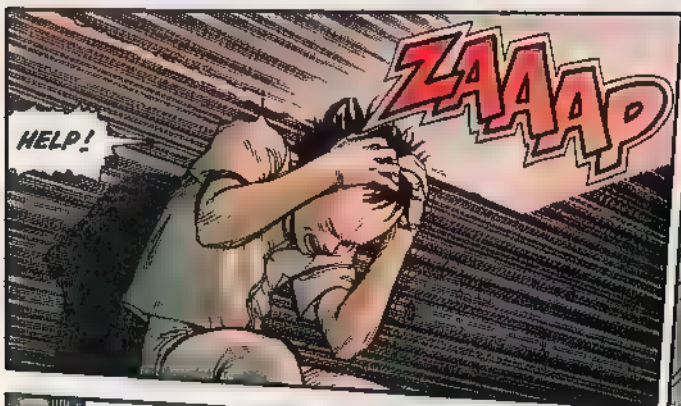
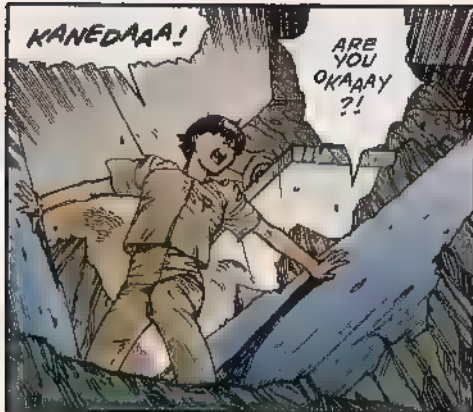




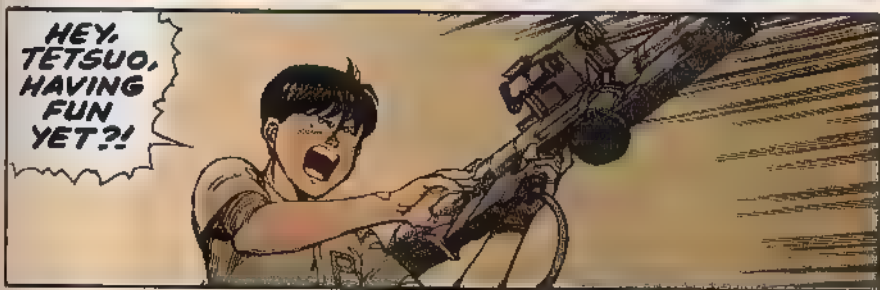
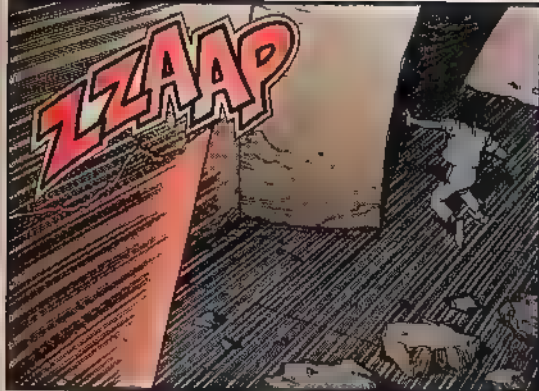




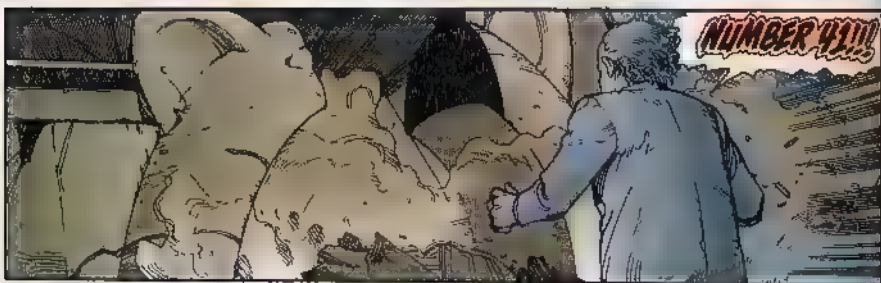
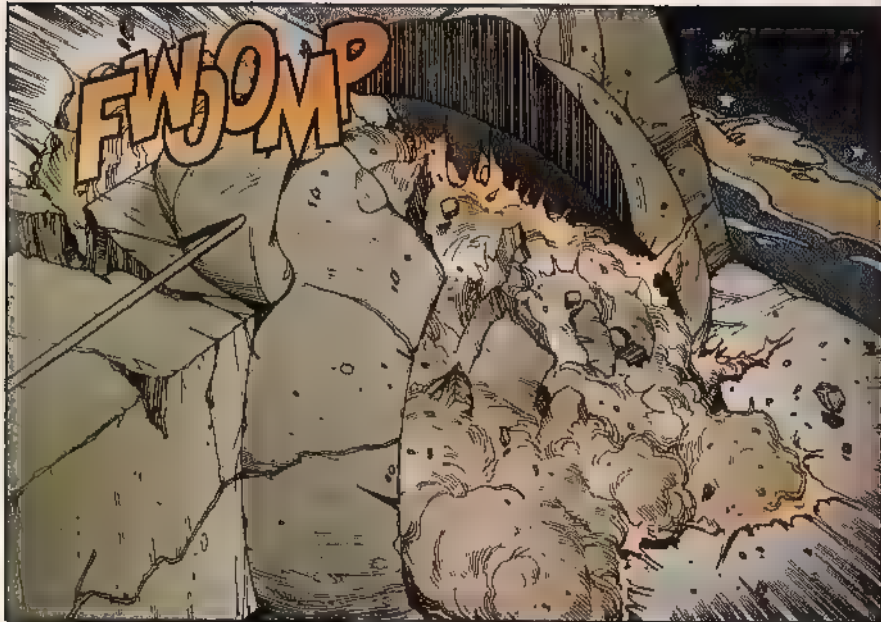


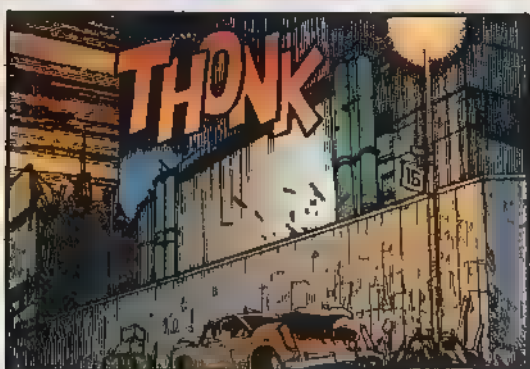
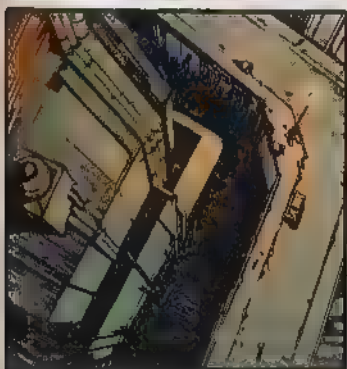


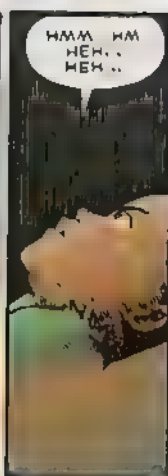
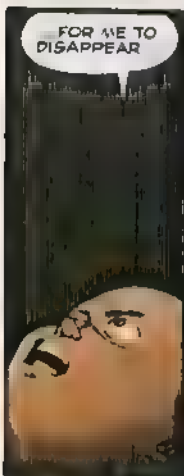
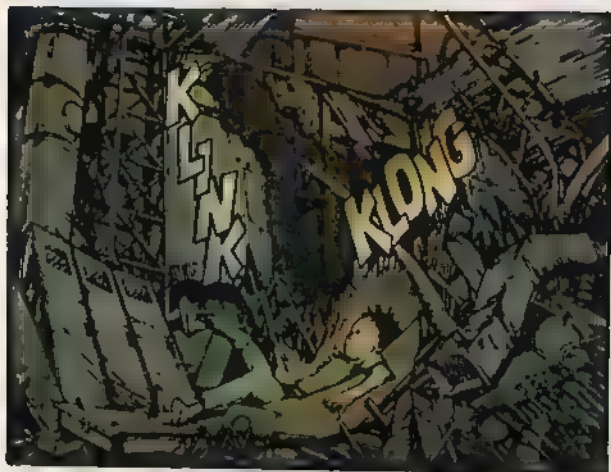




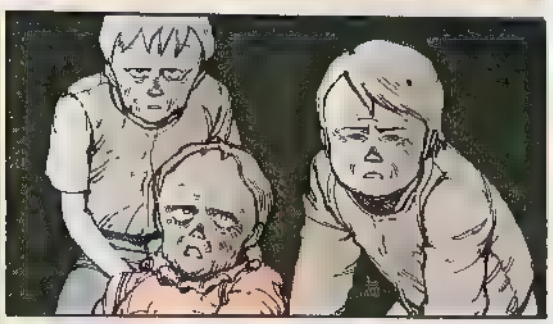
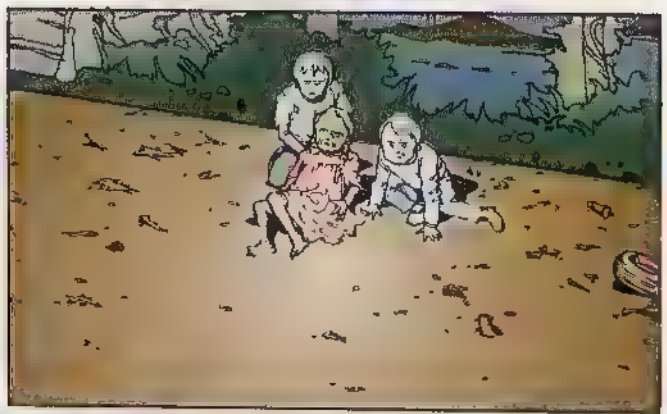




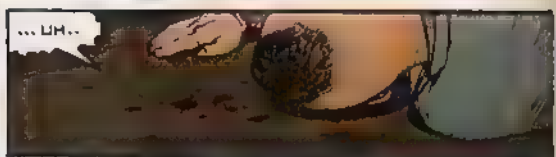


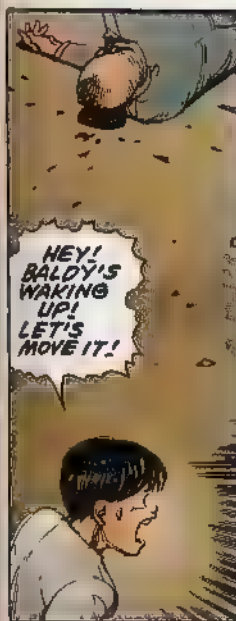


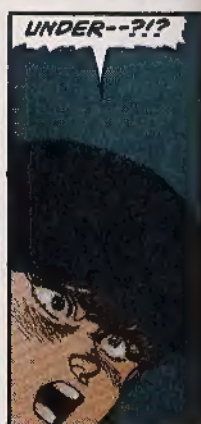
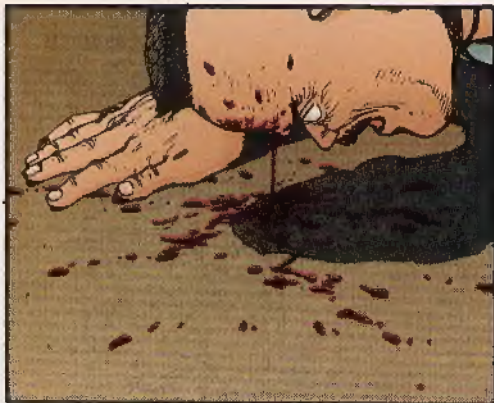
NUMBER 42!!!











NEXT ISSUE: **STALKERS**



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**C**haos reigns in the secret government project run by the Colonel in 21st Century Neo-Tokyo. Two prisoners—Kay, young agent of the underground resistance, and Kaneda, vengeance driven leader of a teenage motorcycle gang—are on the loose in his skyscraper headquarters. His special team of mutant children are plotting on their own against Tetsuo, delinquent become psychic-powered killer. Once the Colonel's hope as a check against the greatest threat of all—the sleeping paranormal giant, AKIRA—Tetsuo is proving wild and uncontrollable, bent on a test of psychic might with the children arrayed against him. As this showdown begins, Kaneda and Kay will be wild cards...perhaps in destroying Tetsuo, perhaps in driving him to even greater acts of violence.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S



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